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(64) Synthetic polymeric drugs.

(67) A polymeric drug comprising an inert synthetic polymeric carrier combined through aminoacid or peptide spacers with a bioactive molecule, a targeting moiety, and an optional cross-linkage, comprises:

(a) 5.0 to 99.7 mol % of units derived from N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide,

(b) 0.2 to 20.0 mol % of units derived from an N-methacryloylated peptide, the peptide groups being bound to a bioactive moiety,

(c) 0.1 to 94.8 mol % of units derived from N-methacrylamide, N-methacrylic acid or an N-methacryloylated aminoacid or peptide, to which are bound a determinant capable of interacting with specific receptors on cell surfaces,

(d) optionally, 0 to 5 mol % of units derived from an N-methacryloylated peptide, the peptide groups being bound to a linking group which is similarly attached to a similar peptide group attached to another polymer chain, and

(e) optionally, as a bioassay label, 0 to 2 mol % of units derived from N-methacryloylated tyrosinamide.

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Synthetic Polymeric Drugs

The present invention is concerned with polymeric drugs comprising an inert synthetic polymeric carrier combined through a biodegradable spacer with a low molecular weight bioactive molecule and with the synthesis thereof.

5.

Many of the low molecular weight drugs used in chemotherapy rapidly enter all types of cell by random diffusion through the cell membrane. This lack of selectivity decreases their availability at the desired target tissue and sometimes causes undesirable side effects. Cellular uptake is rapid so that the therapeutic effect is not extended over a period of time. Furthermore, glomerular filtration can rapidly remove the drugs from the bloodstream.

10.

The covalent attachment of low molecular weight bioactive molecules to soluble polymeric carriers prevents both glomerular filtration and cellular absorption by simple diffusion. Uptake is restricted to cells capable of a substrate selective mechanism known as pinocytosis, in which a region of the limiting membrane of the cell engulfs the macromolecule and is then detached inwards to form a free intracellular vesicle containing the captured material.

15.

20.

This difference in uptake mechanisms affords a potential method for directing drugs specifically to those cells where their therapeutic effect is required.

A further difference lies in the subsequent fates of the two types of molecule. Small molecules which enter by diffusion tend to find their way to all parts of the cell, but macromolecules, following pinocytosis, are transported in their intracellular vesicles directly to the lysosomal compartment of the cell where an array of hydrolytic enzymes is available.

The pinocytic uptake of a polymeric drug in which the drug-carrier linkage is susceptible to lysosomal hydrolysis therefore affords a mechanism for the controlled intracellular release of a bioactive molecule leading to its appearance within the cytoplasm of the target cell. The theoretical considerations involved in the design of such a drug system have recently been reviewed in an article by J. Kopecek entitled "Synthesis of tailor-made soluble polymeric carriers" in "Recent Advances in Drug Delivery Systems" (Plenum Press, 1984).

In order to design such a system, two criteria must be satisfied. Firstly, a drug-carrier linkage must be devised which undergoes controlled lysosomal hydrolysis, but is capable of withstanding the action of enzymes in the bloodstream. Secondly, the drug delivery system must be able to achieve specific uptake at those target cells where the therapeutic effect is required, with minimal uptake by other cells.

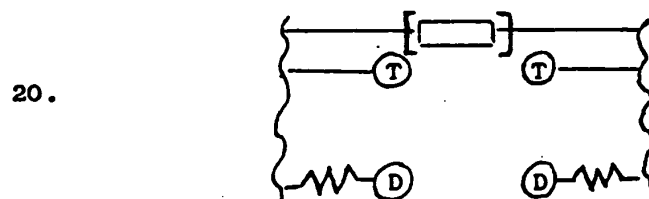
Although the process of pinocytosis affords a degree of selectivity towards macromolecules, a selectivity which can be optimised by varying the molecular weight, greater target selectivity can be achieved by the incorporation within the macromolecule of a specific "targeting moiety". Cells possess specific receptors and cell antigens on their surfaces which "recognise"

and interact with certain types of molecular entities known as specific determinants. High cell specificity can be achieved by the incorporation in the polymeric drug of a determinant which is recognised by the type of cells in which the therapeutic effect is required.

Thus, a drug delivery system which would allow specific targeting followed by intracellular drug release requires the following features:

10. (a) an inert polymeric carrier, which is preferably susceptible to lysosomal hydrolysis to facilitate elimination of the polymer from the body,
- (b) a degradable drug-carrier linkage which is resistant to extracellular hydrolysis, but which is subject to controlled lysosomal hydrolysis, and
15. (c) a specific targeting moiety.

Such a molecule may be represented by the following schematic representation:



25. targeting moiety,
drug attached by biodegradable linkage ,

30. optional biodegradable cross-linkage
in polymeric carrier.

Although natural macromolecules have been used as carriers, synthetic polymers offer the advantages that the molecular weight can be more readily adjusted for optimum cell selectivity and, unlike many natural macromolecules, they are not immunogenic. They also lend

themselves more readily to commercial production.

Synthetic polymers based on N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide (HPMA) have been proposed as potential drug carriers, see U.S. Patents 4062831 and 4097470;

5. such polymers are soluble in aqueous media and have good biocompatibility. Furthermore, by the incorporation of p-nitrophenylesters of N-methacryloyl oligopeptides they can be combined with many drugs which contain a primary amino group. The polymeric chains may be
10. cross-linked to a level below the gel point in order to achieve the optimum molecular weight and to provide, by the use of biodegradable cross-linkages, a means of degrading the polymer to facilitate elimination from the body.
15. Since lysosomal enzymes include a number of proteinases with the ability to hydrolyse peptide linkages, direct linkage of the bioactive molecule to the polymer chain by an amide bond would appear to have the potential for lysosomal hydrolysis. In practice, this is not
20. found to be the case. However, peptide "spacers" interposed between the drug and the carrier have been found to undergo degradation by lysosomal enzymes within a broad range of rates. The bond actually cleaved is usually that between the drug and the
25. neighbouring amino-acid, although this is not always the case. The rate of hydrolysis, that is the rate of drug release, is found to depend greatly on the number and the nature of the aminoacid residues in the peptide spacer. Spacers of less than three aminoacids
30. were not generally susceptible to lysosomal hydrolysis. Peptide spacers designed to match the known substrate specificity of thiol-proteinases, known to be present in lysosomes, are particularly effectively cleaved.
35. It has been demonstrated that the modification

- f glycoproteins to give oligosaccharide side-chains which terminate in galactose leads to a dramatic increase in the deposition of the glycoproteins in the parenchymal cells of the liver. The galactose moiety acts as a specific determinant interacting with receptors localised on the plasma membrane of the liver cells. This offers a potential mechanism for the targeting of drugs to hepatoma, a particularly difficult cancer to treat. Furthermore, galactosamine bound to HPMA copolymers by an amide bond gives a similar result, indicating that the receptors on hepatocyte membranes recognise the galactose moiety not only in glycosides, but also when present as N-acyl galactosamine. A number of other recognition systems are known, for example, the N-acetyl-glucosamine/mannose recognition system of Kupffer cells and macrophages and the phosphohexose recognition system of fibroblasts.
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15. systems are known, for example, the N-acetyl-glucosamine/mannose recognition system of Kupffer cells and macrophages and the phosphohexose recognition system of fibroblasts.

- Another possible targeting mechanism is to
20. bind the polymeric drug to an antibody which is recognised specifically by those cells which have the appropriate antigenic receptors. Drug molecules have been bound directly to immunoglobulins, but this can lead to loss of drug activity, loss of antibody
25. activity and/or solubility of the conjugate.

A further targeting mechanism is to include a protein or a hormone, for example transferrin and melanocyte-stimulating hormone, which will bind specifically to the target cell type.

30. While the desirability of synthesising targeted polymeric drugs with hydrolysable peptide spacers has been referred to in the prior art (see the Kopecek article above), the identification of peptide spacers which are capable of controlled
35. intracellular drug release at a satisfactory rate and

the identification of linking group/d terminant combinations which give good targeting to the desired cell receptors, have both eluded researchers.

- As discussed earlier, the rate of lysosomal
5. hydrolysis of a peptide spacer is dependent on both the number and the nature of the aminoacid residues. This is a reflection of both steric and structural factors. Thus the rate of terminal hydrolysis of a spacer containing 2 to 4 aminoacid residues is
10. generally dependent on the number of residues present, an effect attributed to steric interaction between the polymer chain and the enzyme.

- For a given length of peptide, the rate of hydrolysis is dependent on the nature (and sequence) of
15. the aminoacid residues. This dependency arises from the substrate specific nature of the lysosomal enzymes responsible for cleavage of the peptide spacer. The region of the enzyme where interaction with the substrat takes place is known as the "active site" of the
20. enzyme. The active site performs the dual role of binding the substrate while catalysing the reaction, for example cleavage. Studies of the structures of the complexes of proteolytic enzymes with peptides indicate that the active site of these enzymes is
25. relatively large and binds to several aminoacid residues in the peptide.

- Thus the degradability of a particular bond in a peptide chain depends not only on the nature of the structure near the cleaved bond, but also on the nature
30. of the aminoacid residues which are relatively remote from the cleaved bond, but play an important part in holding the enzyme in position during hydrolysis. So far the detailed structures of the active sites of lysosomal enzymes have not been determined and this
35. has proved to be an obstacle to the preparation of

peptid spacers which undergo lysosomal hydrolysis at a suitable rate for use in polymer drugs.

- The present invention is based on the discovery of (i) peptide groups which can act as
5. spacers which undergo lysosomal hydrolysis at a satisfactory rate to give controlled intracellular drug release and (ii) combinations of linkage and determinant which can be used to bind the determinant to the polymeric chain without interfering with its
 10. targeting mechanism, the peptide sequences of (i) and the linkages of (ii) being, at the same time, resistant to extracellular hydrolysis. Other peptide linkages have been developed for the facile lysosomal cleavage of peptide cross-linking spacer.
 15. The hydrolysis of these linkages is particularly susceptible to steric hindrance by the polymer chains, more so than the hydrolysis of terminal moieties from peptide side-chains.

- According to the present invention, there
20. is provided a polymeric drug comprising an inert synthetic polymeric carrier combined through peptide spacers with a bioactive molecule, and with a targeting moiety, and an optional cross-linkage, which comprises

- (a) 5.0 to 99.7 mol % of units derived from
25. N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide,

- (b) 0.2 to 20.0 mol % of units derived from an N-methacryloylated peptide, the peptide groups being bound to a bioactive molecule and being Gly-Gly, Gly-Phe-Gly, Gly-Phe-Phe, Gly-Leu-Gly, Gly-Val-
30. Ala, Gly-Phe-Ala, Gly-Leu-Phe, Gly-Leu-Ala, Ala-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu, Gly-Leu-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Tyr-Ala, Gly-Phe-Gly-Phe, Ala-Gly-Val-Phe, Gly-Phe-Phe-Gly, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, or Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, and being subject to intracellular
35. lysosomal hydrolysis,

- (c) 0.1 to 94.8 m l % of units derived from N-methacrylamide, N-methacrylic acid or an N-methacryloylated aminoacid or peptide, to which are bound a determinant capable of interacting with specific receptors on cell surfaces,
5. the aminoacid or peptide being Leu, Phe, Gly-Gly, Gly-Leu-Gly, Gly-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Ala, Gly-Leu-Phe, Gly-Leu-Ala, Ala-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu, Gly-Leu-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Tyr-Ala, Gly-Phe-Gly-Phe, Ala-Gly-Val-Phe, Gly-Phe-
10. Phe-Gly, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, or Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe,

- (d) optionally, 0 to 5 mol % of units derived from an N-methacryloylated peptide, the peptide groups being bound to a linking group which
15. is similarly attached to a similar peptide group attached to another polymer chain, the peptide being Gly-Leu-Gly, Gly-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Ala, Gly-Leu-Phe, Gly-Leu-Ala, Ala-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu, Gly-Leu-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Tyr-Ala,
20. Gly-Phe-Gly-Phe, Ala-Gly-Val-Phe, Gly-Phe-Phe-Gly, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, or Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, and

(e) optionally, as a bioassay label, 0 to 2 mol % of units derived from N-methacryloylated tyrosinamide.

25. Not all combinations of peptide groups listed for feature (b) and bioactive or drug molecules are subject to intracellular lysosomal hydrolysis; thus, as shown below, the combination of Gly-Gly with daunomycin is not subject to such hydrolysis
30. and Gly-Gly should not, therefore, be used as a peptide spacer with daunomycin. However, Gly-Gly is an acceptable spacer for other drugs, such as deacetyl colchicine and colcemid.

- As indicated above, in connection with
35. feature (c), the determinant may be linked directly

to the polymer chain (either by an amide or an ester bond) that is without a spacer, r may be linked through an aminoacid or peptide spacer. The considerations affecting the choice of linkage to be used for any particular determinant are complicated and depend, inter alia, on the nature and number of the drug-bearing units, on whether the polymer is single chain or cross-linked, and, of course, on the nature of the determinant. The overriding requirement is that the determinant should be accessible by the specific receptors on the target cells; this is to a large extent a function of the geometry of the polymeric drug molecule.

The bioactive molecule present in the polymeric drug is preferably an anti-cancer agent, an antimicrobial agent, an antiparasitic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a cardio-vascular drug, or a drug acting on the nervous system. Particularly preferred bioactive molecules are, for example, daunomycin, puromycin, adriamycin, melphalan isopropylester (sarcolysine), bleomycin, desferrioxamine, bestatin, and tritylcysteine.

The determinant is preferably a monosaccharide, disaccharide, oligosaccharide or 0-methacryloylated saccharide unit which is preferably bound by an amide bond, an antibody, such as IgG (rat immunoglobulin) or anti- θ antibody, or a protein, such as transferrin or melanocyte-stimulating hormone (MSH). Particularly preferred determinants are galactose, galactosamine, glucosamine, mannosamine, and fucosylamine.

The linking group is preferably of the type $-(\text{aminoacid})\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2)_x\text{NH}(\text{aminoacid})-$, where x is an integer from 1 to 12, and is attached to the adjacent peptide spacers by amide bonds. Particularly preferred linking groups are those in which x is 6 and the aminoacid is Phe, Tyr, Ala, Gly or Leu and that in which x is 2 and the aminoacid is Ala.

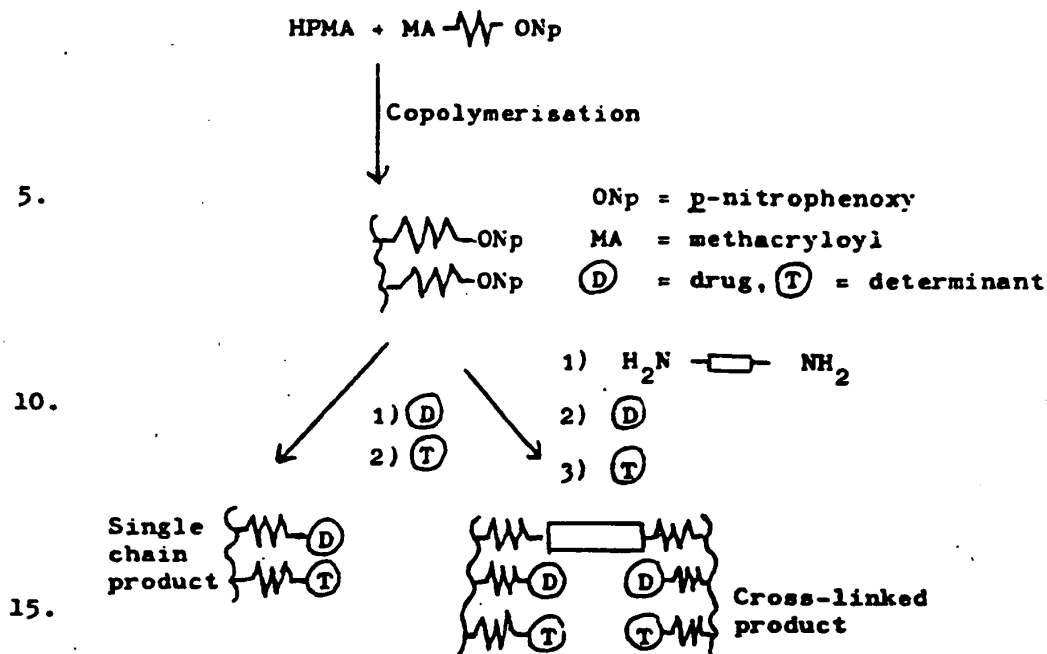
A particularly preferred embodiment of the invention comprises single or cross-linked chains of

- the specified polymer with daun mycin as the bio-active molecule, galactos , galactosamine or fucosylamine as the determinant, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly as the peptide spacer to both the daunomycin and
5. the determinant, and optionally, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly as the peptide cross-linking spacer and $-(\text{Phe})\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{NH}(\text{Phe})-$ as the linking group.

The invention also includes the synthesis of polymeric drugs according to the invention.

10. Since the same peptide-spacer may be used both for the bioactive molecule and the determinant and the preparation of such compounds is simpler than those in which such spacers are different, a synthetic procedure for the former compounds will
15. first be described. The synthesis consists essentially of two steps.

- The initial step involves the copolymerisation of HPMA and the p-nitrophenyl ester of the N-methacryloylated peptide (N-methacryloylated
20. tyrosinamide may also be incorporated at this point to provide a bioassay label) to give a "polymeric precursor" in which the terminal p-nitrophenoxy groups on the peptide side-chains are convenient leaving groups for subsequent addition reactions. The
25. second step involves the sequential addition of the reactive drug, the reactive determinant, and optionally, a diamino cross-linking agent. If the single chain form of the polymeric drug carrier is required, the drug and determinant are consecutively
30. added to the polymeric precursor in either order. If the cross-linked product is required, a suitable cross-linking agent, the drug, and the determinant are sequentially added to the polymeric precursor, again in any desired order.
35. The above process may be represented as follows:

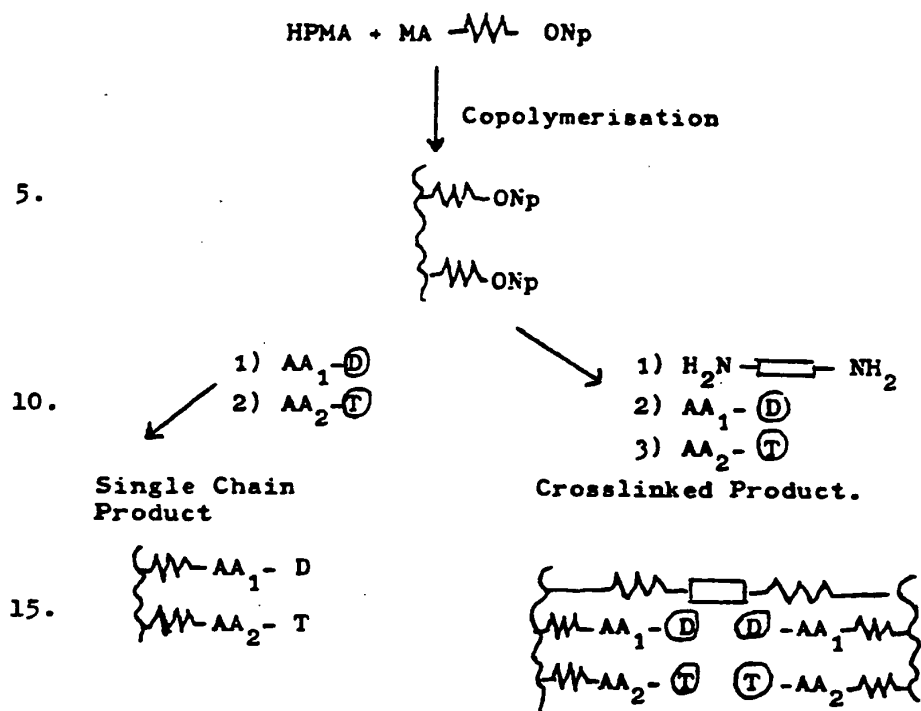


20. In those cases in which the drug and the determinant linkages are not the same, two synthetic routes are available.

25. For those cases in which the drug and determinant linkages have common aminoacid residues adjacent to the carrier, the polymeric precursor containing these aminoacids is sequentially treated with an aminoacid or peptidyl derivative of the drug, an aminoacid or peptidyl derivative of the determinant, and, optionally, when a cross-linked product is required, a diamino cross-linking agent.

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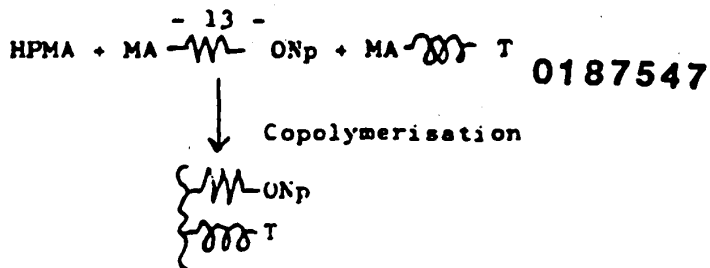
This procedure may be represented as follows:



20. Alternatively, the determinant may be bound to an N-methacryloylated peptide having the required amino-acid sequence for the determinant spacer and the N-methacryloylated peptidyl determinant then

25. incorporated in the copolymerisation step. The polymeric precursor is consecutively treated with the reactive drug and, optionally, when a cross-linked product is required, a diamino cross-linking agent.

30. This procedure may be represented as follows:



5.



10.



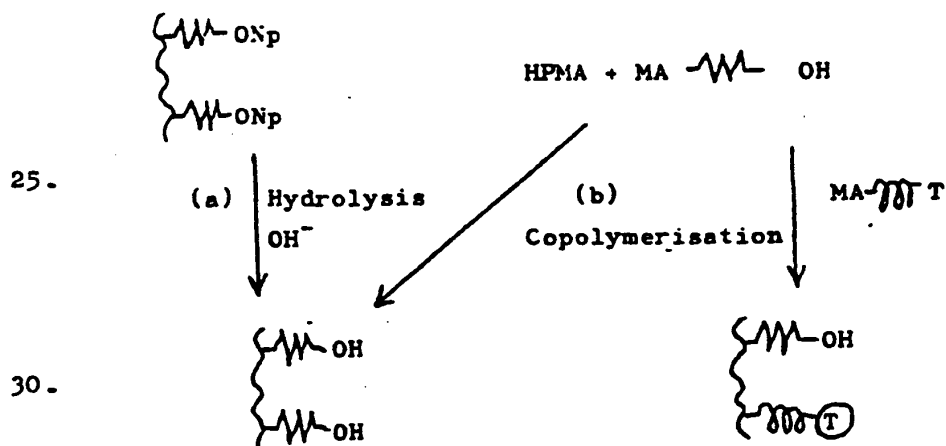
It is also possible to prepare polymeric precursors similar to those described above, but containing peptide side-chains which terminate not in p-nitrophenyl ester groups, but in carboxyl groups. In the presence of a suitable catalyst, reactive drugs and determinants may be attached to these polymeric precursors through the terminal carboxyl groups; hydroxy rather than p-nitrophenoxy is the nominal leaving group during addition.

Drugs and determinants with reactive amino groups give products which are identical to those obtained from polymeric precursors with terminal p-nitrophenyl ester groups, that is, the reactive molecule is attached to the side-chain through an amide bond. However, polymeric precursors with terminal carboxyl groups, in contrast to those with terminal p-nitrophenyl ester groups, also react with drugs and determinants with reactive hydroxy groups to give products in which the reactive molecule is attached to the side-chain through an ester bond.

Polymeric precursors with side-chains

- terminating in carboxyl groups may be prepared
 (a) by base hydrolysis of the corresponding
 polymeric precursor with side-chains terminating
 in p-nitrophenyl ester groups, the preparation
 5. of which has been described above, or (b)
 by copolymerising HPMA in accordance with any of
 the synthetic procedures described above for the
 preparation of the polymeric precursor with
 terminal p-nitrophenyl ester groups, but using in
 10. the copolymerisation step non-esterified N-
 methacryloylated peptide rather than the
 p-nitrophenyl ester thereof. The resultant
 copolymer may then be consecutively treated with the
 reactive drug and the reactive determinant.
 15. The methods by which polymeric precursors
 with side-chains terminating in carboxyl groups
 may be prepared may be represented as follows:

20.



Suitable catalysts for the addition of the reactive drug and/or determinant to polymeric precursors containing carboxyl groups include carbodiimides, such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide

5. in organic solvents and N-cyclohexyl-N'-(2-morpholino ethyl) carbodiimide metho-p-toluenesulphonate in aqueous solutions, and Woodward's reagent (N-ethyl-5-phenylisoxazolium-3'-sulphonate).
10. The order in which any or all of the reactive drug, reactive determinant, and cross-linking agent are added to the polymeric precursors in any of the above synthetic procedures is not critical. The amounts of the reactants used
15. should, of course, be those which give the desired molar contents of each component in the polymer within the ranges specified above. The overall molecular weight is determined by the polymerisation conditions, particularly the
20. concentration of initiator, the presence of transfer agents, and the concentration of comonomer p-nitrophenoxy groups.

- The single chain products according to the invention preferably have a molecular weight in the
25. range 5,000 to 60,000, more preferably 30,000 to 60,000, and the cross-linked products preferably in the range 10,000 to 500,000, more preferably 30,000 to 400,000.

- The starting materials required to carry
30. out the syntheses described above are either currently available or can be prepared by general methods known to those skilled in the art.

- Thus, the peptide derivatives required for copolymerisation with HPMA may be prepared and the
35. copolymerisation may be carried out, as follows:

- (i) A commercially available dipeptide (which contains the first two amino acid residues of the required peptide spacer) is N-methacryloylated as described, for example, in Makromol. Chem., 177, 2833 (1976). (N-methacryloylated tyrosinamide for bioassay purposes may be prepared in the same way).
- 5.

- (ii) The N-methacryloylated dipeptide is then esterified with p-nitrophenol as described, for example, in Makromol. Chem., 178, 2169 (1977). (The N-methacryloylated p-nitrophenyl esters of Leu and Phe which provide the amino acid spacers which may be used for the determinant may be prepared in the same way).
- 10.

- (iii) The peptide chain of the N-methacryloylated dipeptidyl p-nitrophenyl ester is then extended (unless the dipeptide is Gly-Gly when the dipeptide itself forms one of the spacers which may be used for the determinant) to give the desired peptide sequence by the addition of a peptide containing the necessary amino acid residues, as described, for example, in Makromol. Chem., 182, 1917 (1981).
- 15.
- 20.

- (iv) The N-methacryloylated peptide obtained from (iii) may be copolymerised with HPMA to give a polymeric precursor with side-chains having terminal carboxyl groups or it may be reesterified with p-nitrophenol. In the latter case, the N-methacryloylated peptidyl p-nitrophenyl ester may be copolymerised with HPMA as described, for example, in J. Polymer Sci., Polymer Symp. 66, 15 (1979), or, if the drug and determinant are to have different spacers, it may be treated with the reactive determinant to give the N-methacryloylated oligopeptidic determinant and then copolymerised with an N-methacryloylated
- 25.
- 30.
- 35.

ester and HPMA as described, for example, in Biochim. Biophys. Acta, 755, 518 (1983).

5. The preparation of HPMA is described in Angew. Makromol. Chem., 70, 109 (1978); the reactive drugs and determinants are all commercially available. Aminoacid and peptidyl derivatives of drugs and determinants may be prepared by methods described in Makromol. Chem., 184, 1997 (1983) and the cross-linking agents
10. may be prepared as described, for example, in Makromol. Chem., 182, 1899 (1981).

- The present invention also comprises pharmaceutical compositions which comprise at least one polymeric drug according to the invention and an inert, physiologically acceptable carrier.
15. The polymeric drugs can be administered orally or by injection, for example by intraperitoneal, intravenous or intramuscular injection.

- Any of the excipients and drug formulation additives which are conventionally used in such
20. pharmaceutical compositions can, in principle, be used with the polymeric drugs according to the invention. In the case of injectible formulations, it is preferred to use sterile aqueous media as the carrier.

25. In order that the invention may be more fully understood, the following examples are given by way of illustration.

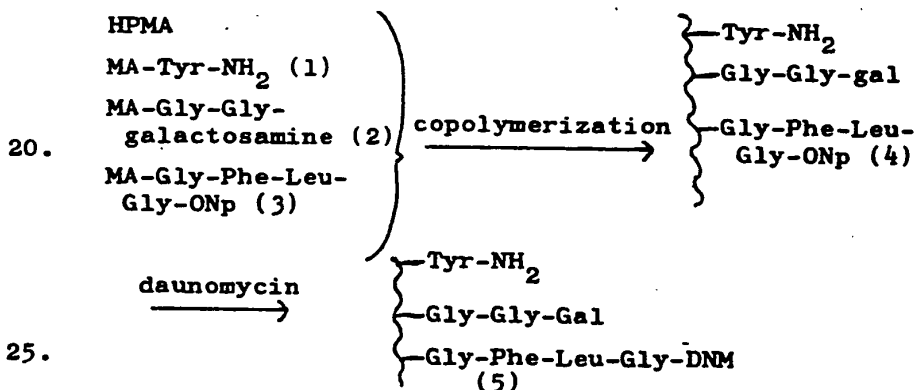
- Examples 22 to 35 are concerned with the biological testing of polymeric drugs according
30. to the invention and analogues thereof, and the remaining examples are concerned with the synthesis of such polymeric drugs.

As indicated, a number of Examples 22 to 35 are concerned with the biological testing of

- analogues of polymeric drugs according to the invention, these analogues being compounds that include feature (a) and, in some cases, one or both of the optional features (d) and (e), of compounds according to the invention, but only contain one of features (b) and (c) and not both. Analogues were used in these examples rather than compounds according to the invention so that the effect of variation in features (b) and (c) individually could be more clearly demonstrated.

Example 1

- Preparation of a single chain polymer containing daunomycin bound to tetrapeptide spacer, galactosamine bound to dipeptide spacer and tyrosinamide bound directly to the main chain.



Preparation of MA-Tyr-NH₂ (1)

- MA-Tyr-NH₂ was prepared by reaction of 3.4 g (0.017 mol) p-nitrophenylmethacrylate with 3.0 g (0.017 mol) Tyr-NH₂ in dimethylformamide and stirring the reaction mixture for 16 h at 25°C. After evaporating the solvent, the viscous oil was mixed with dry ether and a small amount of hydroquinone. Yield: 3 g of solid product. (M.p. 194 - 6°C; crystallized from ethanol).

Molar extinction coefficient, $\epsilon_{280 \text{ nm}} = 1.7 \times 10^3$ (ethanol).

Preparation of MA-Gly-Gly-galactosamine (2)

- To a mixture of 3.5 g (1.08×10^{-2} mol) of MA-Gly-Gly-ON_p (methacryloyl-glycylglycine p-nitrophenylester) and 2.8 g (1.3×10^{-2} mol) of galactosamine hydrochloride in 18 ml of dimethylformamide was slowly added 18.2 ml (1.3×10^{-2} mol) of triethylamine and the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 25°C. The triethylamine hydrochloride was then filtered off and the remainder of the reaction mixture was evaporated to a viscous oil. After adding ethanol and cooling, the crude product was obtained. Recrystallization gave 1.5 g of product; m.p. 112°C (ethanol).

Preparation of MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp (3)

- A mixture of 4.1 g (1.0×10^{-2} mol) of MA-Gly-Phe-ONp (prepared according to J. Polym Sci., 66, 15 (1979) in 50 ml dioxan, 2.1 g (1.1×10^{-2} mol) of H-Leu-Gly-OH in 50 ml H₂O and 1.8 g (2.2×10^{-2} mol) of NaHCO₃ was stirred for 48 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated off under reduced pressure to reduce the volume of the mixture to a quarter of its initial volume and after adding a small amount of inhibitor (hydroquinone), the reaction mixture was acidified with dilute hydrochloric acid to a pH of 2. The crude product was extracted into ethyl acetate and precipitated with diethyl ether. Yield: 74% of MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-OH; m.p. 145 - 150°C. TLC analysis showed that the product did not contain impurities. [Note: It was preferred to use the crude product for the next reaction step as the pure material readily polymerises during

purification⁷.

- 4.6 g (1.0×10^{-2} mol) of MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-OH was esterified with p-nitrophenol (1.1×10^{-2} mol) in 55 ml of THF by means of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) (1.1×10^{-2} mol). After 3 hours at 15 °C and 12 hours at 25 °C, the dicyclohexylurea was filtered off and the remaining solution was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was solidified by adding dry ethyl ether and after recrystallisation from acetone : ether (3:1) gave MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp in 76 % yield which was analytically pure; m.p. 124 - 8 °C. Aminoacid analysis gave Gly : Leu : Phe of 2.0 : 1.0 : 0.99.

15. Preparation of reactive polymeric precursor (4)

Copolymerization of HPMA + MA-Tyr-NH₂ (1) + MA-Gly-Gly-galactosamine (2) + MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp (3):

- To a solution of 2.5 g (1.75×10^{-2} mol) of HPMA (92 mol %), 0.047 g (1.90×10^{-4} mol) of MA-Tyr-NH₂ (1 mol %), and 0.555 g (9.54×10^{-4} mol) of MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp (5 mol %) in 25 ml acetone was added a solution of 0.138 g (3.82×10^{-4} mol) of MA-Gly-Gly-gal (2 mol %) in 1 ml of DMSO. A solution of 0.153 g of azobisisobutyronitrile in 3 ml acetone was then added. The mixture was poured into ampoules, the ampoules were bubbled through with nitrogen and sealed, and the mixture was polymerized at 50 °C for 24 hours. The precipitated polymer was separated and purified by dissolving in methanol and reprecipitating into acetone. The yield was 1.9 g (60%). The product contained

- 4.7 mol % of -Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp side chains
(determined from $\epsilon_{274\text{ nm}} = 9.5 \times 10^3$ in DMSO),
1.8 mol % of -Gly-Gly-galactosamin side chains
(determined using GPC after acid hydrolysis), and
5. 1.0 mol % of -Tyr-NH₂ side chains. \bar{M}_w of
aminolysed polymer = 22 000; $\bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n = 1.4$.

Preparation of polymer containing daunomycin (5)

Binding of daunomycin to polymer precursor (4)

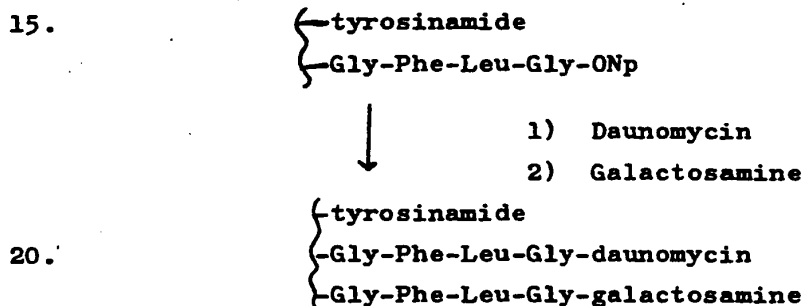
- To a solution of 1.0 g of copolymer (4)
10. containing 2.8×10^{-4} mol of reactive p-nitrophenoxy groups in 4 ml of dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO), a solution of 0.16 g (2.8×10^{-4} mol) of daunomycin hydrochloride in 1 ml DMSO was added, followed by 0.028 g (2.8×10^{-4} mol) of
15. triethylamine. The mixture was stirred at room temperature in the dark for 16 hours and then 20 μ l of aminopropanol was added to remove remaining -ONp groups (if any). The polymer was precipitated by pouring the mixture
20. into 400 ml of acetone/diethylether (9 : 1) mixture; the precipitate was filtered off, thoroughly washed with acetone and ether, and dried. The polymer was purified by double gel filtration using Sephadex LH-20 (2x100 cm) and methanol as
25. the eluent. The methanol was evaporated under reduced pressure and pure polymer was isolated from water solution by freeze drying. Yield: 0.75 g. Polymer contained 3.5 mol % of side chains terminating in daunomycin (10.2 wt. % of daunomycin), 1.8 mol
30. % of side-chains terminating in galactosamine (1.8 wt. % of galactosamine) and 1 mol % of Tyr-NH₂ side chains. The polymer contained less than 0.1 % of unbound daunomycin related to the amount of bound daunomycin).

35. Determination of unbound daunomycin:

free DNM was determined by ethyl acetat
extraction : 1.5 mg of the p lymer was
dissolved of 1 ml of H₂O and shaken wiyh a
mixture of 1 ml of buffer (0.2 M Na₂CO₃/NaHCO₃
5. pH 9.8) and 2 ml of ethyl acetate. The organic
layer was separated, dried with a small amount of
dry MgSO₄ and the concentration of DNM
determined spectrophotometrically at 485 nm
($\epsilon = 1.0 \times 10^4$ (ethyl acetate)).

10. Example 2

Preparation of single chain polymer containing
daunomycin and galactosamine bound to a
tetrapeptide spacer and tyrosinamide bound
directly to the polymer backbone.

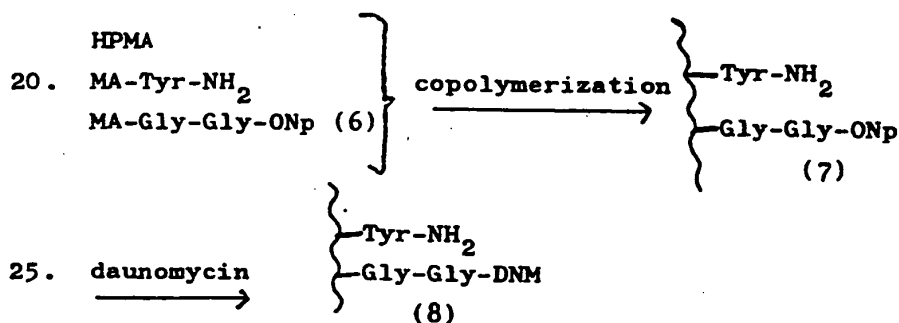


A copolymer of HPMA, MA-tyrosinamide,
and MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp (0.1g, 2.85×10^{-5} mol
of -ONp groups) was dissolved in dimethyl
25. sulphoxide (DMSO) (0.4 ml) and a solution of
daunomycin hydrochloride (8.5 mg, 1.5×10^{-5} mol)
in DMSO (0.1 ml) added, followed by triethylamin
(1.5 mg, 1.5×10^{-5} mol). The mixture was
stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes and
30. then a solution of galactosamine hydrochloride
(6.5 mg, 3.0×10^{-5} mol) in DMSO (0.1 ml) was
added, followed by triethylamine (3.0 mg, 3.0

- $\times 10^{-5}$ mol). The mixture was stirred for 16 hours at room temperature and then poured into an acetone/diethyl ether mixture (9:1). The precipitated polymer was filtered off,
5. thoroughly washed with acetone and diethyl ether, and dried under vacuum. The polymer was purified by dialysis in Visking tubing using dilute acid, then water. The pure polymer was isolated by freeze drying and contained 2.17 mol % of side-
 10. chains terminating in daunomycin, i.e. 7.5% by weight of active product, and 1.8 mol % of side-chains terminating in galactosamine, i.e. 2.0% by weight of galactosamine.

Example 3

15. Preparation of single chain polymer containing daunomycin bound to a dipeptide spacer and tyrosinamide bound directly to the polymer backbone.



- Methacryloylglycylglycine p-nitrophenylester (6) was prepared according to Makromol. Chem. 177, 2833 (1976). The preparation of the polymer
30. precursor by copolymerization was carried out as shown in Example 1. $\bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n = 1.4$ (aminolyzed precursor).

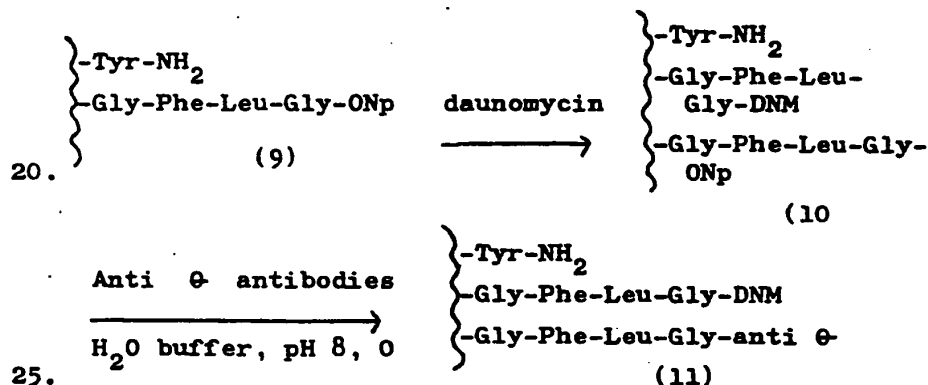
Preparation of polymer containing daunomycin (8)

- To a solution of 0.50 g of polymer precursor (7) 5.5 mol % of Gly-Gly-ONp side-chains (1.8×10^{-4} mol ONp groups) in 2 ml DMSO
5. 0.038 g (1.35×10^{-4} mol) daunomycin hydrochloride in 0.3 ml DMSO was added, and followed by 0.014 g (1.35×10^{-4} mol) triethylamine. Further procedure was the same as in Example 1. Yield: 0.38 g of polymer containing 3.1 mol % of
10. -Gly-Gly-daunomycin side-chains (10.2 wt. % of daunomycin); $\lambda_{485} = 9800$ (H₂O).

Example 4

Preparation of single chain polymer containing daunomycin and anti ϕ antibodies bound to

15. tetrapeptide side-chain and tyrosinamide bound directly to polymer backbone.



- MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp (3) was prepared as described in Example 1 and polymeric precursor (9) was prepared by copolymerization of HPMA and (3) by the method described in Example 1. Polymer
30. precursor (9) contained 8.0 mol% of -Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp side-chains and 1 mol % of Tyr-NH₂. \bar{M}_w of aminolyzed precursor (9) = 17 000; $\bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n = 1.3$.

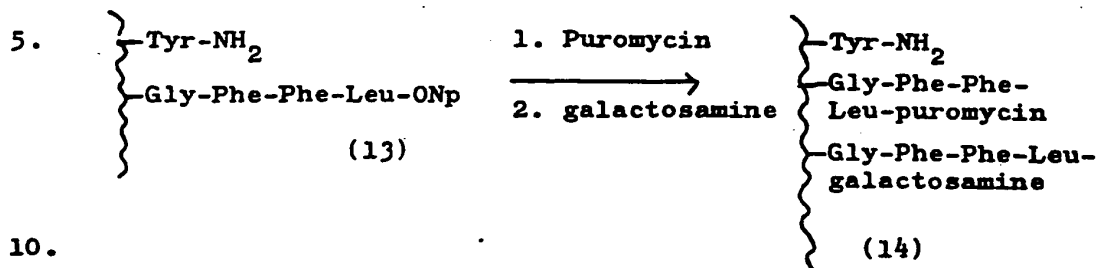
Preparation of polymer with daunomycin and free reactive groups

- To a solution of 0.31 g of polymer precursor (9) (containing 1.35×10^{-4} mol of ONp groups) in
5. 1.2 ml DMSO was added 0.028 g (5.1×10^{-5} mol) of daunomycin hydrochloride in 0.1 ml DMSO and 0.0052 g (5×10^{-5} mol) of triethylamine. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 60 minutes and then poured into 400 ml of
10. acetone : ether (3 : 1) mixture to precipitate the polymer. The polymer contained 2.5 mol % of side-chains terminating in daunomycin and 4.3 mol % of side-chains terminating in unreacted ONp groups.
15. Binding of anti- θ antibodies to polymer containing daunomycin
- 77 mg of the copolymer described in the preceding paragraph was dissolved at 5 °C in 0.5 ml of dilute hydrochloric acid (pH 3.0).
20. 0.6 ml of Sorensen buffer (pH 8.0) containing 0.15 M NaCl was then added, followed by the dropwise addition of 0.67 ml of anti θ -antibody solution in the same buffer (containing 39.5 mg of protein). The reaction was allowed to
25. proceed for 30 minutes at 5°C. During the following 30 minutes the temperature was gradually increased to 20°C. (At the beginning of the reaction, the molar ratio of reactive groups ONp : NH₂ = 1 : 1 and the concentration of
30. macromolecules was 6.6 % wt.). After one hour of reaction a solution of 20 μ l of 1-aminopropan-2-ol in 0.2 ml of Sorensen's buffer (pH 8.0) containing 0.15 M NaCl was added. After 10 minutes the reaction mixture was transferred into a
35. Visking dialysis tubing and dialyzed against

phosphate buffered saline (pH 7.2).

Example 5

Preparation of single chain polymer containing puromycin and galactosamine bound to tetrapeptide spacer.



Preparation of MA-Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu-ONp (12)

- A mixture of 4.1 g (1.0×10^{-2} mol) of MA-Gly-Phe-ONp (cf. Example 1) in 50 ml of dioxan and 3.06 g (1.1×10^{-2} mol, Sigma) of H-Phe-Leu-OH in
15. 50 ml of dioxan and 1.85 g of NaHCO_3 (2.2×10^{-2} mol) in 50 ml of H_2O was stirred at room temperature for 45 hours. The further procedure was similar to the preparation of (3) in Example 1. The rough product (yield: 51%) MA-Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu-OH was esterified with
20. p-nitrophenol by the method described in Example 1. After recrystallization from acetone: ether (3 : 9) mixture, the pure product was obtained in 50% yield. Amino acid analysis gave Gly : Phe : Leu of 1.0 : 1.98 : 1.0.

25. Preparation of polymer precursor (13)

- Copolymerization of HPMA (95 mol %) with MA-Tyr-NH₂ (1 mol %) and MA-Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu-ONp (12) (5.0 mol %) according to the procedure described in Example 1 gave a polymer precursor containing 3.0 mol % of -Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu-ONp side-chains and 1.0 mol % of Tyr-NH₂ side-chains. \bar{M}_w 23 000; \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n 1.3.
- 30.

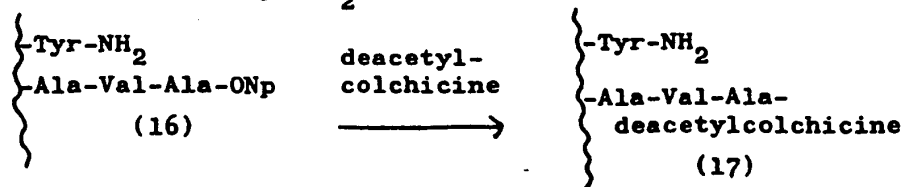
Binding of puromycin and galactosamine

- To a solution of 0.36 g of polymer precursor (13) (containing 6.5×10^{-5} ONp groups) in 1.4 ml DMSO was added a solution of 0.026 g (4.4×10^{-5} mol) of
5. puromycin dihydrochloride in 0.1 ml DMSO and 0.0088 g (8.8×10^{-5} mol) of triethylamine. After stirring for 30 minutes at room temperature, 0.094 g (4.4×10^{-5} mol) of galactosamine and 0.044 g (4.4×10^{-5} mol) of triethylamine were added to the mixture. The
 10. reaction mixture was stirred for 16 hours and then 10 μ l of aminopropanol was added. The polymer was immediately precipitated in 400 ml of acetone, washed and dried. The polymer was reprecipitated from methanol solution with acetone and purified by the
 15. dialysis of water solution in Visking dialysis tubing. After isolation of the product by lyophilization, 0.265 g of the polymer was obtained containing 1.3 mol % of side-chains terminating in puromycin (3.7 wt. % of puromycin; determined from molar extinction
 20. coefficient $\epsilon_{272 \text{ nm}} = 2.0 \times 10^4$, ethanol) and 1.0 mol % of side-chains terminating in galactosamine (1.0 wt. % of galactosamine). The purity of the product, i.e. the presence of low-molecular
 25. puromycin, was checked by extraction of the polymer into ethyl acetate as described in Example 1 and confirmed by GPC on Sephadex G-15.

Example 6

Preparation of single chain polymer containing deacetylcolchicine bound to tripeptide spacer and

30. small amount of Tyr-NH₂



- 35.

Preparation of MA-Ala-Val-Ala-ONp (15)

- 15 g (0.17 mol) of alanine was dissolved in 40 ml of methanol and 20 g of thionyl chloride was slowly added to the solution at -15°C . After 1 h at room temperature and 2 h of boiling and removal of methanol, 12 g of HCl. Ala-OMe was isolated using diethyl ether.

- To a solution of 10 g (0.086 mol) of valine and 3.4 g (0.086 mol) of NaOH in 250 ml of dioxane: H_2O (2 : 1) mixture was slowly added 20.5 g (0.094 mol) of di-tert-butylcarbonate at 0°C with vigorous stirring. The reaction mixture was then stirred for another hour at room temperature, dioxane was removed under reduced pressure, and BOC-Val-OH was obtained by acidifying the mixture to a pH of 2 - 3. The raw product consisting of 18 g of viscous oil was obtained after evaporating the solvent from the ethyl acetate extracts.

- The condensation of BOC-Val-OH with HCl. Ala-OMe was carried out by a mixed anhydride method. 12 g (0.055 mol) of BOC-Val-OH was dissolved in 40 ml of dry THF and 5.6 g (0.055 mol) of triethylamine and 6.6 g (0.06 mol) of chloroformic acid ethyl ester was added to the solution after cooling to -15°C . After 10 minutes at low temperature 7.7 g (0.055 mol) of HCl. Ala-OMe and 5.6 g (0.055 mol) of triethylamine were slowly added to the mixture at -15°C . The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 16 hours at room temperature. The THF was evaporated and the product extracted with ethyl acetate. Recrystallization from ether gave 8.1 g of analytically pure BOC-Val-Ala-OMe, m.p. $138 - 148^{\circ}\text{C}$.

- Removal of the BOC-group was carried out by dissolving 8.1 g of the BOC-Val-Ala-OMe in 60 ml of methanol and adding 20 ml of 30% HCl methanol.

After 2 hours of stirring, the solvent was vaporated and raw HCl.Val-Ala-OM was isolated.

Using the Schotten-Bauman method of acylation, N-methacryloylalanine was prepared. Coupling of

5. MA-Ala-OH (5.35 g; 0.034 mol) with HCl.Val-Ala-OMe (8.1 g) was performed in dimethylformamide by means of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (7.0 g) in the presence of triethylamine (3.4 g). Recrystallization from CH_2Cl_2 /pentene gave 9.5 g of MA-Ala-Val-Ala-OMe.
10. 8 g of MA-Ala-Val-Ala-OMe was hydrolysed in methanol with a small excess of 2N NaOH followed by acidification (after removal of the methanol) with citric acid to a pH of 3. 4 g of the raw product was used in the following reaction.
15. From 3.6 g of MA-Ala-Val-Ala-OH (0.012 mol), 1.5 g (0.012 mol) of p-nitrophenol, and 2.5 g (0.0125 mol) of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide in 50 ml of tetrahydrofuran was prepared 2.0 g (40% yield) of MA-Ala-Val-Ala ONp; m.p. 174 - 6 °C. Recrystallized from ethylacetate/hexane. Molar extinction coefficient, $\epsilon_{274\text{nm}} = 9300$ (DMSO).
- 20.

Preparation of polymer precursor

- Copolymerization of HPMA (95 mol %), MA-Tyr-NH₂ (1 mol %) and MA-Ala-Val-Ala-ONp (4 mol %) gave a
25. polymer precursor containing 2.9 mol % of side-chains with ONp groups. \bar{M}_w 27,000; \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n 1.4 (determined for aminolyzed precursor).

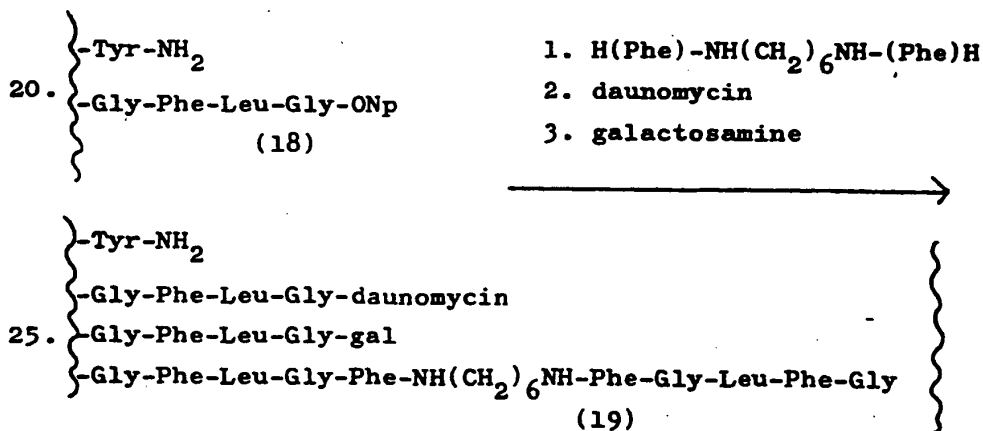
- The mixture of deacetylcolchicine and isodeacetylcolchicine was prepared by treating
30. trimethylcolchicinic acid with diazomethane according to a known procedure (Biochemistry 25, 2463 (1966)).

Binding of deacetylcolchicine

- To a solution of 0.41 g of polymer precursor (16) (containing 4.0×10^{-5} mol of ONp groups) in 1.6 ml of DMSO was added a solution of 0.021 g (6.0×10^{-5} mol) of deacetylcolchicine in DMSO. The mixture was stirred for 20 hours at room temperature in the dark and the polymer then precipitated in acetone. Purification was carried out by ultrafiltration (UM-02 membrane) in H_2O with 20% methanol.
10. The polymer product isolated by lyophilisation contained 2.7 mol % of side-chains terminating in deacetylcolchicine. (Calculated from molar extinction coefficient, $\epsilon_{350 \text{ nm}} = 1.6 \times 10^4$ (ethanol)).

15. Example 7

Preparation of crosslinked polymer containing daunomycin and galactosamine prepared by consecutive aminolysis.

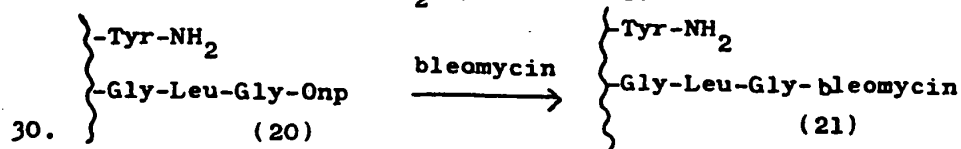


- Polymer precursor (18) was prepared by copolymerization of HPMA (90 mol %), MA-Tyr-NH₂ (1 mol %), and MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp (9.0 mol %). Polymer precursor (18) contained 8.0 mol % of side-chains terminating in ONp groups. $\bar{M}_w = 17\,000$; $\bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n = 1.3$. (determined for aminolyzed precursor).
30. 0.2 g of the polymer precursor (18) (8.0 mol %

- of side chains containing ONp groups) in 0.8 ml DMSO (9.8×10^{-5} mol ONp) was added to a solution of 0.0045 g (1.1×10^{-5} mol) of N, N'-bis(H-phe)hexamethylenediamine in 0.2 ml of DMSO. The mixture
5. was stirred at room temperature for 5 minutes and then a solution of 0.036 g (6.3×10^{-5} mol) of daunomycin hydrochloride in 0.3 ml of DMSO was added followed by 0.0064 g (6.3×10^{-5} mol) of triethylamine. The mixture was stirred for 60 minutes
 10. and then a solution of galactosamine hydrochloride (0.018 g; 8.5×10^{-5} mol) and triethylamine (0.0086 g; 8.5×10^{-5} mol) was added. The mixture was stirred for a further 16 hours and the polymer then precipitated in acetone. The polymer was
 15. purified first by gel filtration using Sephadex LH-20/methanol and then by dialysis in Visking dialysis tubing against water. The pure polymer was isolated by freeze drying. The polymer product contained 2.8 mol % of side-chains terminating in daunomycin
 20. (7.8 wt. % of daunomycin) (determined from ϵ 485 nm 9.8×10^3 (DMSO)), and 3.9 mol % of side-chains terminating in galactosamine.
- Yield of polymer: 0.15 g; \bar{M}_w 110,000; \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n 4.0 (\bar{M}_w of aminolyzed precursor was 17,000; \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n 1.3).

25. Example 8

Preparation of single chain polymer containing bleomycin and Tyr NH₂ tyrosinamide.



Methacryloylglycylleucylglycine p-nitrophenylester was prepared by the procedure described in Example 6 for compound (15).

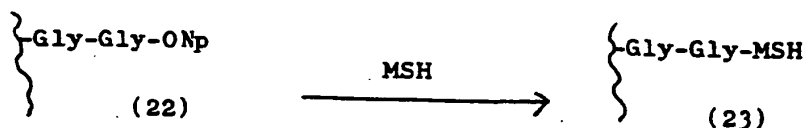
The polymer precursor was obtained by the copolymerization of HPMA (94 mol %), MA-Tyr-NH₂ (1 mol %) and MA-Gly-Leu-Gly-ONp (5 mol %).

5. The polymer precursor (20) contained 4.3 mol % of side-chains terminating in ONp groups.

10. To a solution of 0.137 g of precursor (20) (3.8×10^{-5} mol of ONp groups) in 0.55 ml of dimethylsulfoxide was added a solution of 0.047 g (3.8×10^{-5} mol) of bleomycin sulphate and 0.0038 g (3.8×10^{-5} mol) of triethylamine in 0.3 ml of DMSO. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 hours and the polymer was then isolated by adding 20 μ l of aminopropanol and pouring into acetone. After two days of dialysis using Visking tubing the polymer
15. was lyophilized. Yield: 0.102 g. The polymer product contained 3.1 mol % of side-chains terminating in bleomycin (determined by kinetic measurements to determine the concentration of ONp groups).

Example 9

20. Preparation of single chain polymer containing melanocyte-stimulating hormone (MSH) bound to dipeptide spacer.

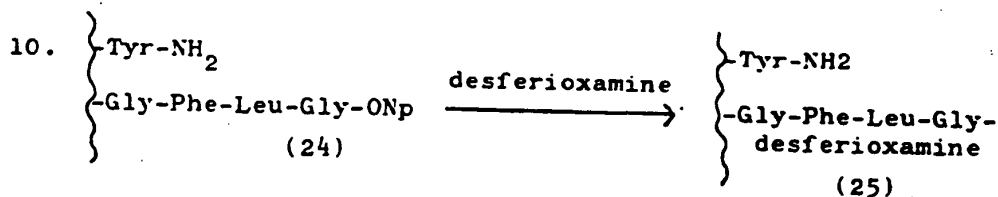


25. To a solution of 0.20 g of the polymer precursor (22) (5.0 mol % Gly-Gly-ONp) containing 6.6×10^{-5} mol of ONp groups in 0.8 ml DMSO was added a solution of 0.005 g (3.0×10^{-5} mol) of melanocyte-stimulating hormone in 0.3 ml of DMSO. After 16 hours of
30. stirring 10 μ l of aminopropanol was added and the polymer product precipitated in acetone. After

- purification using dialysis and lyophilization the product was analyzed to determine the content of bound MSH. The polymer product (23) contained 1.3 wt. % of MSH (determined spectrophotometrically):
5. for 0.347 mg/ml of MSH in H_2O , $A_{278\text{ nm}}^{1\text{ cm}} = 1.49$.

Example 10

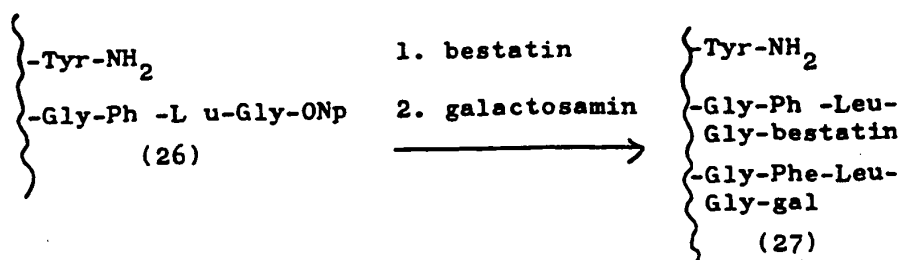
Preparation of single chain polymer containing desferioxamine bound to tetrapeptide spacer.



15. A polymer precursor (24) containing 4.3 mol % of side-chains having ONp groups (0.20 g; 5.3×10^{-5} mol of ONp groups) was dissolved in 0.8 ml of DMSO and 0.070 g (1.06×10^{-4} mol) of desferioxamine and 0.011 g (1.06×10^{-4} mol) of triethylamine in 0.2
20. ml of DMSO were added. After 16 hours of stirring at room temperature, the polymer product was precipitated in 200 ml of acetone. Purification was carried out by dialysis in water containing 20% methanol using Visking dialysis tubing.
25. The desferioxamine content was calculated by kinetic measurements to determine the amount of ONp groups in the reaction mixture. The polymer product contained 3.9 mol % of side-chains with bound desferioxamine (12.4 wt. % of desferioxamine).

30. Example 11

Preparation of single chain polymer containing bestatin and galactosamine bound to tetrapeptide spacer.

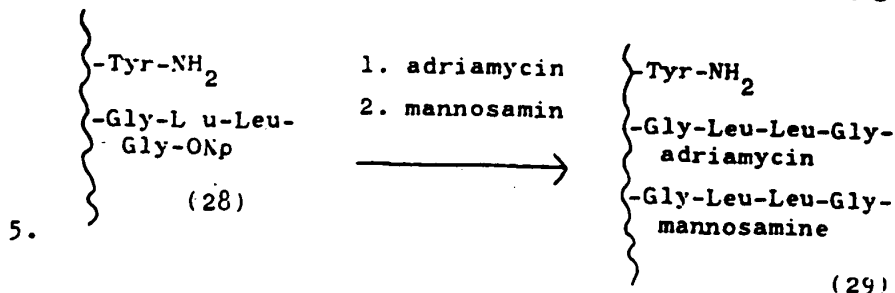


5.

- 0.150 g of the polymer precursor (18) (containing 6.8×10^{-5} mol of ONp groups) was dissolved in 0.6 ml of DMSO and a solution of 0.005 g (1.45×10^{-5} mol) of bestatin and 0.0029 g (2.9×10^{-5} mol) of triethylamine in 0.1 ml of DMSO was added. After 1 hour of stirring at room temperature a solution of 0.030 g (1.3×10^{-4} mol) of galactosamine and 0.014 g (1.3×10^{-4} mol) of triethylamine in 0.2 ml of DMSO was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 16 hours. After that the product was precipitated in 200 ml of acetone and purified by 3 days of dialysis. Lyophilized product (0.111g) was analyzed for the content of galactosamine (cf. Example 1). The amount of bound bestatin was calculated from kinetic measurement by following the amount of ONp groups in the reaction mixture. The polymer product (27) contained 1.4 mol % of side-chains terminating in bestatin (2.4 wt. % of bestatin) and 5.4 mol % of side-chains terminating of galactosamine (5.5 wt. % of galactosamine).

Example 12

Preparation of single chain polymer containing adriamycin and mannosamine bound to tetrapeptide spacer.



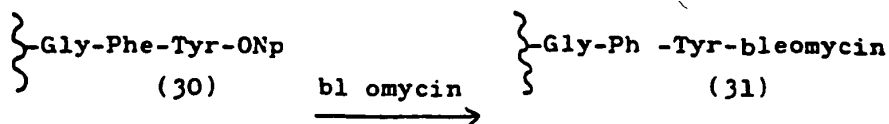
Methacryloylgllycylleucylleucylglycine p-nitrophenylester was prepared by a similar procedure to that described in Example 1 for preparing (3).

10. Polymer precursor (28) was prepared by the copolymerization of HPMA (89.5 mol %), MA-Tyr-NH₂ (1 mol %) and MA-Gly-Leu-Leu-Gly-ONp (9.5 mol %). The polymer contained 8.1 mol % of tetrapeptide side-chains terminating in ONp groups. $\bar{M}_w = 17,000$;
15. $\bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n = 1.3$ (determined for aminolyzed precursor).

- Polymer product (29) was prepared from 0.4 g of the polymer precursor (28) containing 1.8×10^{-4} mol of ONp groups dissolved in 1.6 ml of DMSO to which 0.06 g (1.1×10^{-4} mol) of adriamycin hydrochloride and 0.011 g (1.1×10^{-4} mol) of triethylamine in 0.2 ml of DMSO was added. After 1 hour of stirring at 25°C, 0.030 g (1.4×10^{-4} mol) of galactosamine and 0.014 g (1.4×10^{-4} mol) of triethylamine were added to the mixture.
20. The subsequent procedure was the same as that described in Example 1. The polymer product contained 3.2 mol % of side-chains containing adriamycin (9.6 wt. % of adriamycin) and 4.1 mol % of side-chains containing mannosamine. Yield: 0.31 g. The
25. content of sugar residues was determined after acid hydrolysis using GPC according to a known procedure (Anal. Biochem., 73, 532 (1976)).

Example 13

- Preparation of single chain polymer containing
35. bleomycin bound to tripeptide spacer.



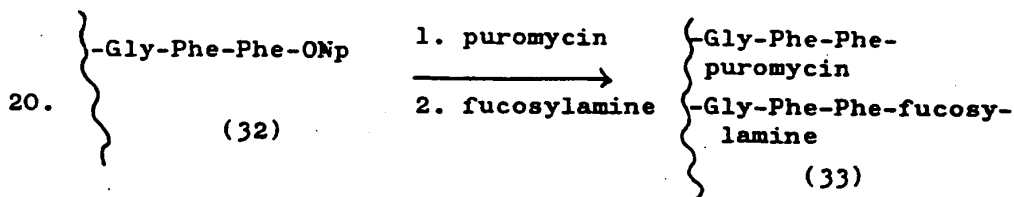
The reactive monomer MA-Gly-Phe-Tyr-ONp and the polymer precursor (30) were prepared according to

5. Makromol. Chem. **182**, 799 (1981). The polymer precursor contained 8.5 mol % of side-chains having ONp groups. $\bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n = 1.3$ (determined for aminolyzed precursor).

10. The binding of bleomycin to the polymer precursor was carried out by the procedure described in Example 8. The polymer product (31) contained 5.7 mol % of side-chains containing bleomycin.

Example 14

15. Preparation of single chain polymer containing puromycin and fucosylamine bound to tripeptide spacer.



Reactive monomer MA-Gly-Phe-ONp and polymer precursor (32) were prepared according to Makromol.

25. Chem. **182**, 799 (1981). The polymer precursor contained 12.9 mol % of side-chains with ONp groups. \bar{M}_w of aminolyzed precursor = 14,000; $\bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n = 1.28$.

To a solution of 0.25 g of the polymer precursor (32) (1.64×10^{-4} mol of ONp groups) in 1 ml of

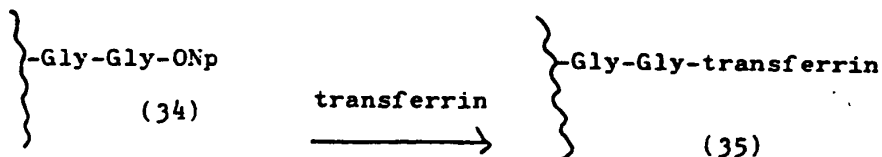
30. DMSO was added a solution of 0.029 g (4.9×10^{-5} mol) of puromycin dihydrochloride and 0.010 g (9.8×10^{-5} mol) of triethylamine in 0.25 ml of DMSO. The

reaction was allowed to proceed for 1 hour and then 0.015 g (9.0×10^{-5} mol) of fucosylamine in 0.1 ml of DMSO was added to the mixture. The subsequent procedure was similar to that

5. described in Example 5. The polymer product (33) contained 4.1 mol % of side-chains terminating in puromycin and 6.7 mol % of side-chains terminating in fucosylamine.

Example 15

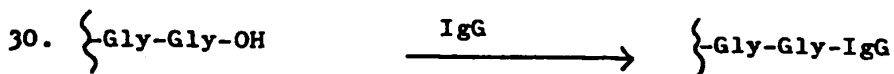
10. Preparation of single chain polymer containing transferrin bound to dipeptide spacer.



15. 27.4 mg of the polymer precursor (34) containing 11.4 mol % of Gly-Gly-ONp side-chains was dissolved in 0.25 ml of diluted hydrochloric acid (pH 3.0). 1.25 ml of Sørensen buffer (pH 8) containing 0.1 M NaCl was then added followed by a solution of 14.2
20. mg of transferrin in 0.5 ml of the same buffer. After 45 minutes, 10 μ l of 1-amino-2-propanol dissolved in 0.2 ml of Sørensen buffer was added to the mixture. After 30 minutes the reaction was stopped and transferred to Visking dialysis tubing and
25. dialyzed against phosphate buffered saline (pH 7.2).

Example 16

Preparation of single chain polymer containing IgG bound to dipeptide spacer.

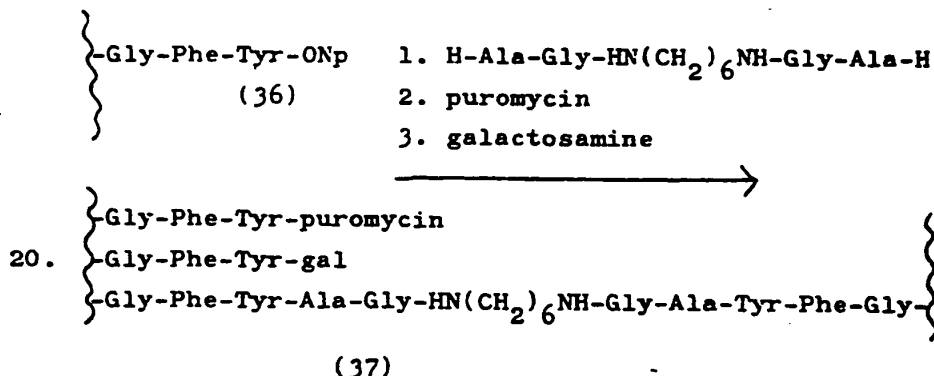


A copolymer of HPMA and MA-Gly-Gly-OH (15.0 mg,

- 5.0 x 10⁻⁶ mol of COOH groups) was dissolved in Sørensen buffer of pH 5 (75 ul) and a solution of N-cyclohexyl-N'-[2-morpholino ethyl]-carbodiimide (0.002 mg) in the same buffer (40 ul) added at 1°C. The mixture was stirred for 15 minutes and then a solution of IgG (60.0 mg) in the same buffer (235 ul) was added slowly. The mixture was stirred for 5 hours and then stood overnight at 4°C. The crude reaction mixture was dialysed against phosphate buffered saline (pH 7.2).

Example 17

- Preparation of crosslinked polymer containing puromycin and galactosamine bound to tripeptide spacer.



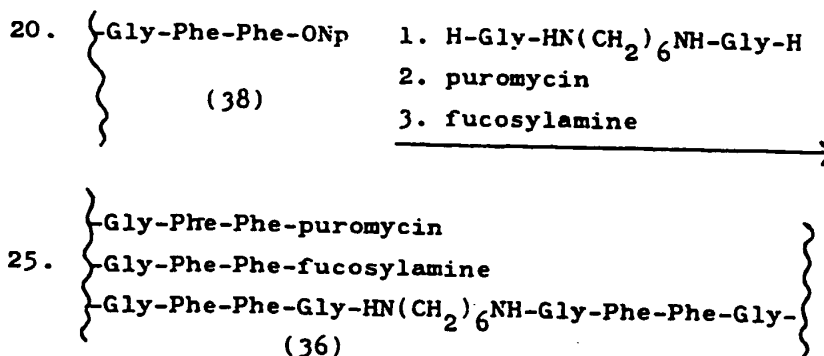
- Polymer precursor (36) containing 4.8 mol % of side-chains with ONp groups was prepared according to Makromol. Chem. 182, 1899 (1981).

- 2.0 g of the polymer precursor (36) containing 5.9 x 10⁻⁴ mol of ONp groups was dissolved in 8 ml of DMSO and a solution of 0.038 g (9.8 x 10⁻⁵ mol) of 1,2-bis(alanylglycylamino)ethane dihydrochloride in 0.2 ml of DMSO was added followed by 0.020 g

- (2.0×10^{-4} mol) of triethylamine. Crosslinking was carried out for 20 minutes. 0.120 g (2×10^{-4} mol) of puromycin dihydrochloride in 1 ml of DMSO and 0.040 g (4×10^{-4} mol) of triethylamine were then added to the mixture. After stirring the reaction mixture for 1 hour, a solution of 0.129 g (6.0×10^{-4} mol) galactosamine hydrochloride and 0.060 g (6.0×10^{-4} mol) of triethylamine in 1 ml of DMSO was added. The mixture was stirred for 16 hours at room temperature. The product was isolated and purified as described in Example 5. The product contained 1.5 mol % of side-chains terminating in puromycin (4.3 wt. % of puromycin) and 2.8 mol % of side-chains terminating in galactosamine.

Example 18

Preparation of crosslinked polymer containing puromycin and fucosylamine bound to tripeptide spacer.



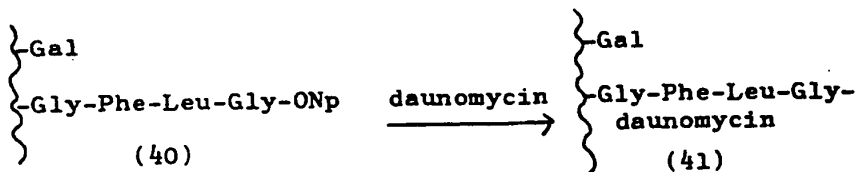
- Polymer precursor (38) containing 4.8 mol % of side-chains having ONp groups was prepared according to Makromol. Chem. 182, 1899 (1981).

2.0 g of the polymer precursor (38) containing 5.9×10^{-4} mol of ONp groups was dissolved in 8 ml of DMSO and a solution of 0.029 g (9.8×10^{-5} mol) of 1,2-bis(glycylamino)ethane diacetat, prepared

- according to Makromol. Chem 182, 1899 (1981), in 0.2 ml of DMSO was added, followed by 0.020 g (2.0×10^{-4} mol) of triethylamine. Crosslinking was carried out for 5 minutes. 0.120 g
5. (2×10^{-4} mol) of puromycin dihydrochloride in 1 ml DMSO and 0.040 g (4×10^{-4} mol) diethylamine were then added to the mixture. After stirring the reaction mixture for 1 hour a solution of 0.98 g (6.0×10^{-4} mol) of fucosylamine in 1 ml of
 10. DMSO was added. The mixture was stirred for 16 hours at room temperature. The product was isolated and purified as described in Example 5. The product contained 1.4 mol % of side-chains terminating in puromycin (4.2 wt. % of puromycin)
 15. and 3.0 mol % of side-chains terminating in fucosylamine.

Example 19

- Preparation of single chain polymer containing daunomycin bound to tetrapeptide spacer and
20. galactose bound directly to the polymer chain.



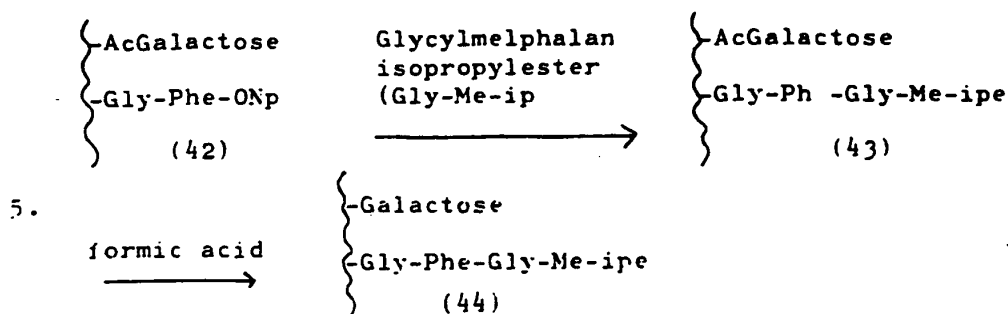
25. Preparation of polymer precursor (40)

- 0.71 g (5×10^{-3} mol) HPMA and 1.64 g (5×10^{-3} mol) 1,2,3,4-di-O-isopropylidene-6-O-methacryloyl- α -D-galactopyranose (prepared according to J. Chem. Soc. (London) C, 1913 (1966)) were
30. dissolved in 13.0 ml of dimethylsulfoxide. To this solution was added azobisisobutyronitrile

- (3 mg (1.8×10^{-4} mol) in 1.8 ml of dimethylsulfoxide), followed by MA-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-ONp (291 mg (5×10^{-4} mol) in 1.0 ml of DMSO), prepared according to the method
5. described in Example 1. The mixture was bubbled through with nitrogen and then polymerized in a sealed ampoule at 60°C for 30 hours. The resulting polymer was precipitated in ether and deacetonated by dissolving in 80 % aqueous
 10. formic acid for 20 hours at room temperature. The yield of the polymer precursor after evaporation of the formic acid was 1.2 g; the content of ONp groups was 9.5 mol % and the content of galactose was 52mol %.
 15. Binding of daunomycin to polymer precursor (40)
374 mg (1.6×10^{-4} mol) of the polymer precursor (40) was dissolved in 1.6 ml of DMSO and daunomycin hydrochloride (50 mg (8×10^{-5} mol) in 0.3 ml DMSO) and triethylamine (0.0111 ml (8×10^{-5} mol)) were added to the solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 30 minutes at room temperature. 20 μ l of aminopropanol was then added and the product immediately precipitated in 200 ml of acetone.
 25. The precipitate was dissolved in methanol and the polymer fraction separated using a Sephadex LH-20 column (100 x 2.5 cm), equilibrated with methanol. The yield was 0.28 g; the content of tetrapeptide side chains terminating in
 30. daunomycin was 3.5 mol %.

Example 20

Preparation of single chain polymer containing melphalan isopropylester bound to tripeptide spacer and galactose bound directly to the main chain.



Preparation of melphalan isopropyl ester (Me-ipe)

10. A solution of 5 g of melphalan in HCl-isopropanol (20%) was refluxed for 5 hours. After cooling in a refrigerator, white crystals of analytically pure product were isolated and dried in vacuo, m.p. 200-201 °C. A solution of Me-ipe in 50 ml
15. diethyl ether was bubbled through with NH₃ for 3 hours; the solvent was then evaporated and the oily product used for the next synthetic step.

Preparation of glycylmelphalan isopropyl ester (Gly-Me-ipe)

20. Gly-Me-ipe was prepared by reacting 3.03 g of BOC-Gly-OH with 6.0 g Me-ipe in 50 ml of tetrahydrofuran using the DCC method. The protecting BOC group was removed in HCl methanol (15 %) solution and the free base was prepared by
25. bubbling NH₃ through the Gly-Me-ipe hydrochloride suspension in diethyl ether. Ammonium chloride was filtered off and an oily product was isolated after evaporation of the solvent.

Preparation of polymer precursor (42)

30. Polymer precursor (42) was prepared by radical precipitation copolymerization of DGM (1, 2, 3, 4-di-O-isopropylidene-6-O-methacryloyl- α -D-galactopyranose) and methacryloylglycyl-phenylalanine p-nitrophenylester (Ma-Gly-Phe-ONp)

(preparation according to Makromol. Chem. 178,
2169 (1977) as described in Example 1).

Polymerization mixture: HPMA 3.43 g (85 mol %)
MA-Gly-Phe-ONp 0.926 g (8 mol %)
5. DGM 0.65 g (7 mol %)
Azo-bisisobutyronitrile 0.24 g

Polymerization carried out for 24 hours at 50°C
in 44 ml of acetone.

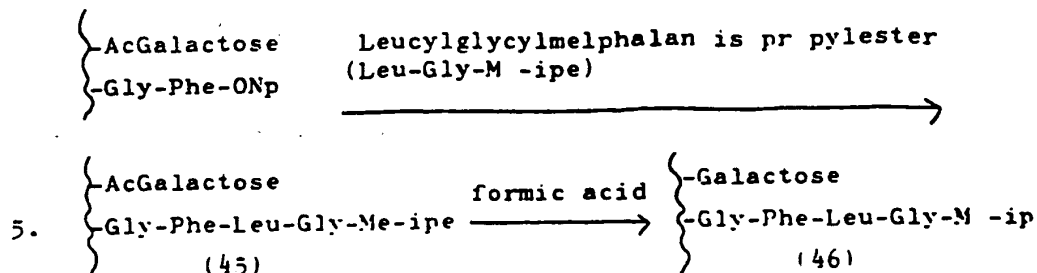
Binding of Gly-Me-ipe to the polymer precursor (42)

10. 3 g of the polymer precursor (42) was dissolved in 20 ml of dimethylsulfoxide and 0.816 g of Gly-Me-ipe was added to the solution. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days and the polymer then precipitated in acetone and reprecipitated
15. two times from methanol into acetone-diethyl ether (1 : 1) mixture. Deacetylation of protected galactose bound to polymer carrier was carried out in 80% formic acid (cf. Example 19) and the polymer drug isolated by lyophilization and precipitation
20. from methanol into acetone-diethyl ether (1 : 1) mixture. Yield of polymer : 2.9 g. Content of drug bound to polymer carrier (melphalan isopropylester): 106 mg/g of polymer (calculated from elemental analysis less chlorine content). Molecular
25. weight of polymer carrier, $\bar{M}_w = 35,000$. The absence of low molecular compound (free drug) was checked by GPC using Sephadex G-25 as a column packing.

Example 21

Preparation of single chain polymer containing

30. melphalan isopropylester bound to tetrapeptide spacer and galactose bound directly to the main chain.



Preparation of Leucylglycylmelphalan isopropylester

- 3.1 g of BOC-Leu-Gly-OH was reacted with 3.7 g of Me-ipe in 35 ml of THF using the DCC method.
10. The product BOC-Leu-Gly-Me-ipe was crystal from acetone. The BOC protecting groups were removed in HCl/methanol (15 % solution) for 1 hour at 25°C. Yield : 3.2 g of HCl · Leu-Gly-Me-ipe. Free base was prepared by bubbling NH₃ through a
 15. diethyl ether suspension of the hydrochloride. A pure oily product was isolated after removal of ammonium chloride and evaporation of the solvent. The polymer precursor (42) was prepared by the method described in Example 20.
 20. Binding of Leucylglycylmelphalan isopropyl ester to the polymer precursor

- The reaction was carried out by a similar method to that of Example 18. 0.5 g of Leu-Gly-Me-ipe was added to a solution of 1.5 g of the
25. polymer precursor (42) in 10 ml of DMSO and the mixture was stirred for 3 days. Polymer (45) was precipitated in an acetone-diethyl ether (1 : 1) mixture and reprecipitated two times from methanol in the same mixture. The deacetylation
 30. of galactose and the isolation and characterisation of polymer (46) were as described in Example 18.
- \bar{M}_w of polymer carrier : 35,000; content of drug (melphalan isopropylester bound to polymer): 118 mg/g of polymer.

The absence of free drug was checked by GPC (Sephadex G-25).

Examples 22 to 25

Effects of different peptide spacers to same drug

Example 22 (effect on activity of L1210 mouse leukaemia in vitro)

5. These experiments were carried out on three HPMA analogues which did not contain determinants. All three analogues contained daunomycin as the bioactive moiety and peptide spacers to the drug in accordance with feature (b). In detail, 10. the analogues were as follows:

- (a) HPMA with -Gly-Gly-daunomycin substituents.
- (b) HPMA with -Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly- daunomycin substituents; and
15. (c) HPMA with -Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu- daunomycin substituents.

- The mouse leukaemia, L1210, was maintained in suspension culture in RPMI 40 medium containing 10% heat inactivated horse serum. Under these 20. conditions the doubling time was 15-20 h for cell densities up to approximately 1×10^5 cells per ml. Cell densities were assessed using a Coulter counter.

- To evaluate polymeric drug cytotoxicity, cells were seeded into tubes (10 ml) and the starting cell 25. density measured. The various polymeric drugs were added at various concentrations and the cells maintained in a growth cabinet for a further 72 h before measuring cell density.

- The number of cells found in tubes containing 30. the polymeric drug was expressed as a percentage of the cells found in tubes incubated for the same

- period (72 h) without the addition of the drug. The results are shown graphically in Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were obtained by plotting percentage cell growth against the daunomycin concentration in $\mu\text{g/ml}$. The results indicate that all three analogues were cytotoxic to L1210 mouse leukaemia in vitro to some degree, but better inhibitory effects were shown by analogues (b) and (c) than by analogue (a).
- 5.
10. Example 23 (effect on activity of L1210 mouse leukaemia in vitro)

- These experiments were carried out on three HPMA analogues which did not contain determinants. All three analogues contained sarcolysine (melphalan IP) as the bioactive moiety and peptide spacers to the drug in accordance with feature (b). In detail, the analogues were as follows:
- 15.

- (a) HPMA with -GlyLeuGly-sarcolysine substituents;
20. (b) HPMA with -GlyPheLeuGly-sarcolysine substituents; and
- (c) HPMA with -GlyPheGly-sarcolysine substituents.

- The experimental procedure was the same as
25. that described in Example 22.

- The results are shown graphically in Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were obtained by plotting percentage cell growth against the sarcolysine concentration in $\mu\text{g/ml}$. The results indicate that all three analogues were cytotoxic to L1210 mouse leukaemia in vitro to some degree, but the inhibitory effect shown by analogue (c) was substantially better than that shown by analogues (a) and (b) which stimulated growth at low concentration.
- 30.

Examp1 24 (eff ct n activity of L1210 m us
leukaemia in vivo)

These exp riments were carried out with
two HPMA analogues which did not contain determinants;

5. both compounds were of the open chain type. Both
analogues contained daunomycin as the bioactive moiety
and peptide spacers to the drug in accordance with
feature (b). In detail, the analogues were as
follows:

10. (a) HPMA with -GlyPheLeuGly- daunomycin
substituents, and
(b) HPMA with -GlyGly- daunomycin
substituents.

- The mouse leukaemia L1210 was inoculated
15. (10^5 viable cells) intraperitoneally into DBA₂ mice
on day 0. The HPMA copolymers were administered
on days 1, 2 and 3. Survival of all animals was
monitored. Control (untreated) animals always
died between day 15 and day 20.

20. The results obtained are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Dose (x 3)</u>	<u>Mean Survival</u>	<u>Long Term</u>
			<u>Time (days)</u>	<u>Survival</u> <u>(> 50 days)</u>
25.	Analogue (a)	5 mg/kg	32	3/5
	Analogue (a)	2 mg/kg	31	2/5
	Analogue (b)	5 mg/kg	18	1/5
	Analogue (b)	8 mg/kg (x1) + 5 mg/kg (x1)	16	1/5
30.	None	-	17	2/10

- It can be seen from Table 1 that the
survival of animals was not prolonged by the administration
of analogue (b). In contrast, animals treated with
analogue (a) showed markedly prolonged survival, a
35. significant proportion of animals becoming long-term
survivors.

Example 25 (effect on rate of in vitro release of drug in presence of enzyme)

Two HPMA analogues were prepared which were of the single chain type and did not contain determinants. Both analogues contained
5. daunomycin as the bioactive moiety with different peptide spacers to the drug; both drug spacers were in accordance with the invention. In detail, the analogues were as follows:

10. (a) HPMA with -GlyPheLeuGly- daunomycin and tyrosinamide substituents, and
- (b) HPMA with -GlyPhePheLeu- daunomycin and tyrosinamide substituents.

Each analogue (25 mg in 1.5 ml) was incubated with 1 ml of enzyme solution at 37°C. The enzyme
15. solution was a purified lysosomal enzyme, cathepsin L (3.8×10^{-7} mol/l), in phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) containing 5mM glutathione and 1mM EDTA.

At various time intervals release of drug was measured by extracting free drug and measuring
20. absorbance at the appropriate wavelength spectrophotometrically. Samples of the incubation mixture (0.15 ml) were taken and added to 1.5 ml of buffer (pH 9.8) and 1.5 ml of ethyl acetate. After 5 min. of vigorous shaking, a sample (1 ml) of
25. the ethyl acetate layer was taken and the extinction measured at 485 nm.

The results are shown graphically in Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were obtained by plotting the percentage of
30. drug originally present in the analogue which had been released against time in hours. The results indicate that the rate of release of daunomycin is substantially greater when the peptide spacer to the drug is -GlyPheLeuGly- than when it is -GlyPhe-
35. PheLeu-.

Examples 26 to 28:

Effects of different drugs having same peptid spacers

Example 26 (effect on activity of L1210 mouse leukaemia in vitro)

5. These experiments were carried out with four HPMA analogues which did not contain determinants; all compounds were of the single chain type and each contained a different drug. The drug spacers of all four compounds were in
10. accordance with the invention; two had -GlyPheLeu-Gly-spacers and two had -GlyLeuPhe- spacers. In detail, the analogues were as follows,
- (a) HPMA with -GlyPheLeuGly-daunomycin and tyrosinamide substituents;
15. (b) HPMA with -GlyPheLeuGly-puromycin and tyrosinamide substituents;
- (c) HPMA with -GlyLeuPhe-sarcolysine substituents; and
- (d) HPMA with -GlyLeuPhe-tritylcysteine substituents.
- 20.

The experimental procedure was the same as that described in Example 22.

- The results are shown graphically in Figure 4 of the accompanying drawings, in which
25. the curves were obtained by plotting the percentage of cells surviving after 72 hours against the polymeric drug concentration in mg/ml. The results indicate that all four polymeric drugs were cytotoxic to the L1210 leukaemia in vitro to some degree, but with
30. the peptide linkage used daunomycin was considerably more effective than puromycin, and tritylcysteine was slightly more effective than sarcolysine.

Example 27 (effect on activity of L1210 mouse leukaemia in vitro)

35. Two HPMA analogues were prepared which did

not contain determinants. The analogues contained different drugs, but the drug spacer was the same in both cases and was in accordance with the invention. In detail, the analogues

5. were as follows:

- (a) HPMA with -GlyGly-deacetylcolchicine substituents, and
- (b) HPMA with -GlyGly-colcemid substituents.

10. The experimental procedure was the same as that described in Example 22.

The results are shown graphically in Figure 5 of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were obtained by plotting percentage
15. cell growth against the polymeric drug concentration in mg/ml. The results indicate that both analogues were cytotoxic to L1210 mouse leukaemia in vitro, but analogue (b) had a greater inhibitory effect than analogue (a).

20. Example 28 (effect on rate of in vitro release of drug in presence of enzymes)

Two HPMA analogues were prepared which were of the single chain type and did not contain determinants. The analogues contained different
25. drugs, but the drug spacer was the same in both cases and was in accordance with the invention. In detail, the analogues were as follows:

- (a) HPMA with -GlyPheLeuGly-daunomycin and tyrosinamide substituents, and
- 30. (b) HPMA with -GlyPheLeuGly-puromycin and tyrosinamide substituents.

Both compounds were examined using two different enzyme solutions, viz. (1) a mixture of isolated rat liver lysosomal enzymes prepared
35. according to the method of Trouet et al (1974)

- in buffer (pH 5.5) containing 1mM EDTA, 5mM reduced glutathione and 0.2% Triton X-100 and, (2) a purified lysosomal enzyme, cathepsin L (3.8×10^{-7} mol/l), in phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) containing 5mM glutathione and 1mM EDTA.

- Each analogue (25 mg in 1.5 ml) was incubated with 1 ml of the enzyme solution. At various time intervals release of drug was measured by extracting free drug and measuring absorbance at the appropriate wavelength spectrophotometrically. Samples of the incubation mixture (0.15 ml) were taken and added to 1.5 ml of buffer (pH 9.8) and 1.5 ml of ethyl acetate. After 5 min. of vigorous shaking, a sample (1 ml) of the ethyl acetate layer was taken and the extinction measured at 485 nm, in the case of daunomycin, or 272 nm in the case of puromycin.

- The results are shown graphically in Figure 6 of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were obtained by plotting the percentage of drug originally present in the analogue which had been released against time in hours. The results obtained with (1) the mixture of lysosomal enzymes are shown by the open circles, and those obtained with (2) the purified enzyme cathepsin L by the blocked-in circles.

These results show:

- (a) differences in the rate of release of puromycin and daunomycin having the same peptide spacer, and
- (b) differences in the ability of a purified lysosomal enzyme and a mixture of lysosomal enzymes derived from different sources to degrade the same peptide spacer having the same terminal drug.

- Trouet, A. (1974) *Methods in Enzymology*.

(Fleisher, S. and Packer, L., Eds),
Vol. XXXI, pp 323-329, Academic Press,
New York.

EDTA = ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid

5. Triton X-100 = quaternary ammonium
surfactant.

Examples 29 to 34:

Effects of presence of determinant

10. Example 29 (effect on rate of uptake of polymer
by melanoma cells in vitro)

An HPMA analogue containing melanocyte-
stimulating hormone (MSH) as the determinant was
prepared from α -melanocyte-stimulating hormone;
the peptide spacer to the determinant was

15. -GlyGly-, a determinant spacer in accordance with the
invention. The analogue was of the cross-linked type
(through the MSH) and did not contain a bioactive
moiety. A preparation of the analogue was
¹²⁵I-radiolabelled and its ability to bind to
20. Clone M3 591 mouse melanoma cells was compared with
that of an HPMA control polymer containing
tyrosinamide substituents and no determinant
substituents. Triplicate cultures were seeded with
 2×10^6 cells and incubated for three days prior
25. to experimentation. 100 μ l of each polymer was
added to the cultures and incubated for up to 60
minutes. At intervals cultures were terminated
and the medium sampled; total cell number and
cell associated radioactivity were determined.

30. The results are shown graphically in Figure 7
of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were
obtained by plotting uptake in μ l of medium/mg of
cell protein against time in minutes. The results
indicate that the MSH-containing analogue showed

increased binding to the melanoma cells compared with the control polymer.

Example 30 (effect on rate of uptake of polymer by human fibroblasts in vitro)

5. An HPMA analogue containing apotransferrin (75 μ l, 580 μ g/ml) was radiolabelled by the iodogen method; the peptide spacer to the determinant was -GlyGly-, a determinant spacer in accordance with the invention. The compound did not contain a bioactive moiety. Chromatography indicated that the analogue had a molecular weight of about 260,000, corresponding to a formula of polymer (apotransferrin)₃.
10. On the fourth day after subculturing (cells confluent), fibroblast cells (human skin) were washed and incubated for predetermined times in Hank's Balanced Salt solution (3 ml) containing the radiolabelled analogue (200 μ l, 11 μ g/ml). Samples (1 ml) of medium were counted; cell counts were determined in two separate groups to distinguish between binding and internalisation. Group 1 were trypsinised to remove the ligand binding to the transferrin receptor; group 2 were not given this treatment. Both groups were dissolved in aqueous NaOH and quantified for radioactivity and protein. The rate of uptake was compared with that of an HPMA control polymer containing -GlyPhePheLeu-aminopropanol substituents and no determinant substituents.
15. The results are shown graphically in Figure 8 of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were obtained by plotting uptake in μ l of medium/mg of cell protein against time in hours. The results
- 20.
- 25.
- 30.

indicat that the apotransferrin-containing polymer showed increased internalisation and binding/internalisation with respect to human fibroblasts as compared with the control polymer.

5. Example 31 (effect on uptake of polymer by human hepatoma in vitro)

- A series of HPMA analogues containing galactose as the determinant were prepared in which the galactose was bound directly to the polymer backbone
10. via an ester linkage. The analogues contained increasing amounts of galactose varying from 0 to 99 mol %; no bioactive moieties were present. The analogues were labelled with ^{125}I by the chloramine T method and tested for their ability to
15. bind to human hepatoma (Hep G2) cells in vitro. The cells were grown as monolayer cultures in EMEM supplemented with 10% foetal bovine serum. Triplicate cultures were seeded with 2×10^6 cells and then incubated for 3 days before experimentation.
20. The cells were incubated with each analogue ($100\mu\text{l}$) for 15 seconds, after which time the medium was sampled and the cell monolayer thoroughly washed. 2.5 ml of 1M NaOH was added to dissolve the cells and samples were taken to determine radiolabel content
25. and total protein.

- The results are shown graphically in Figure 9 of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were obtained by plotting uptake in % counts $\times 10^3/\text{mg}$ of cell protein against mol % of galactose in each
30. analogue. The results indicate that the uptake of HPMA-galactose copolymers by human hepatoma is proportional to the mol % of galactose present.

Example 32 (effect on activity of L1210 mouse
leukaemia in vitro)

- These experiments were carried out with two HPMA copolymers, one of which was in accordance with the invention. Both compounds contained daunomycin as the bioactive moiety and -GlyPheLeuGly- as the drug spacer. The compound in accordance with the invention further contained fucosylamine as a determinant and -GlyPheLeuGly- as the determinant spacer.

The experimental procedure was the same as that described in Example 22.

- The results are shown graphically in Figure 10 of the accompanying drawings, in which the curves were obtained by plotting percentage cell growth against the daunomycin concentration in $\mu\text{g/ml}$. The results indicate that the cytotoxicity of the polymeric drug to L1210 mouse leukaemia in vitro is significantly increased by the presence of a fucosylamine determinant in the molecule.

Example 33 (effect on in vivo targeting of polymer)

Two HPMA copolymers were prepared which had the following structures and compositions:

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 25. | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{-TyrNH}_2 \text{ (1.7 mol \%)} \\ \text{-GlyPheLeuGly-} \\ \text{daunomycin} \\ \text{(3.5 mol \%)} \end{array} \right.$ | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{-TyrNH}_2 \text{ (1.8 mol \%)} \\ \text{-GlyPheLeuGly-daunomycin} \\ \text{(2.2 mol \%)} \\ \text{-GlyPheLeuGly-galactosamine} \\ \text{(1.9 mol \%)} \end{array} \right.$ |
| 30. | polymer 1 | polymer 2 |

Polymer 2 is in accordance with the invention, polymer 1 is not.

Both HPMA polymers were radiolabelled with

¹²⁵I using the Chloramin T method of identification. This radiolabel is stable in the biological environment and therefore enables the fate of the polymer to be followed in vivo.

5. Polymer (approximately 100 µg in 0.1 ml of buffer) was injected into the femoral vein of a male Wistar rat (250-350 g) maintained under anaesthetic and after a thirty minute period the animal was sacrificed and the body distribution of
10. radioactivity measured.

The results obtained are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

15.	Body distribution (after 30 minutes)	Polymer 1	Polymer 2
		% of radioactivity recovered	
	Spleen	0.51	0.19
	Kidneys	4.39	4.83
	Lungs	1.34	1.37
20.	Liver	4.97	23.20
	Blood	88.77	70.38

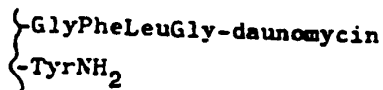
- It can be seen from these results that inclusion of even a small amount of galactosamine (1.9 mol %) effectively diverts a substantial amount
25. of HPMA copolymer to the rat liver within 30 minutes of intravenous administration.

Example 34 (effect on activity of L1210 mouse leukaemia in vivo)

- These experiments were carried out with
30. two HPMA analogues, one of which was in accordance

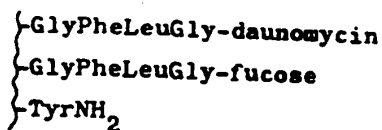
with the invention. Both analogs contain d
daunomycin as the bi active moiety, -GlyPheLeuGly-
as the drug spacer, and tyrosinamide residues. The
polymer in accordance with the invention also

5. contained fucose as a determinant; the spacer to the
determinant was -GlyPheLeuGly-. In detail, the
polymers were as follows:



10.

Polymer 1



Polymer 2

15. The mouse leukaemia L1210 was inoculated
(10^5 viable cells) intraperitoneally into DBA₂ mice
on day 0. The animals were then divided into
two groups which were treated separately. The
animals of group 1 were treated with polymer 1
20. and the animals of group 2 were treated with
Polymer 2; in both groups the dose administered
was equivalent to 7.5 mg of daunomycin/kg.
Survival of the animals in both groups was monitored.

- The results showed that the survival
25. rate of the animals in group 2 (copolymer in accordance
with the invention) was at least double the
survival rate of the animals in group 1 (no
determinant in copolymer); thus, in one set
of experiments, the long term survival rate in group
30. 2 was 57% compared with a long term survival
rate in group 1 of only 25%.

Example 35Effect of different peptide spacers to same
determinant/drug on in vivo targeting of polymer

These experiments were carried out with two HPMA
 5 copolymers, both of which were in accordance with the
 invention. The copolymers both contained daunomycin as
 the bioactive moiety and an anti- θ antibody as the
 determinant. The peptide spacer to the drug and the
 determinant was the same for each copolymer but different
 10 in the two compounds. In detail, the copolymers were
 as follows:

{ GlyPheLeuGly-daunomycin
 { GlyPheLeuGly- anti- θ antibody
 Polymer 1

15
 { GlyGly-daunomycin
 { GlyGly-anti- θ antibody
 Polymer 2

The activity of the copolymers was tested against
 T-lymphocytes in vivo by measuring the suppression of
 20 anti-sheep red blood cell response in mice. The results
 obtained are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

	<u>Polymer 1</u>	<u>Polymer 2</u>
25 Total dose per mouse of anti- θ antibody (mg)	3.0	3.0
Total dose per mouse of daunomycin (mg)	0.4	0.6
% suppression of immune response	98	0

30 It can be seen from these results that

polymer 1 containing -GlyPh LeuGly- spacers
to the drug and determinant is considerably
more effective in killing T-lymphocytes than
the corresponding polymer (2) containing -GlyGly-
5. spacers.

CLAIMS

1. A polymeric drug comprising an in rt synthetic p lym ric carrier combined through peptide spacers with a bioactive molecule, and with a targeting moiety, and an optional cross-linkage, which comprises

(a) 5.0 to 99.7 mol % of units derived from N-(2-hydroxypropyl)methacrylamide,

(b) 0.2 to 20.0 mol % of units derived from an N-methacryloylated peptide, the peptide groups being bound to a bioactive molecule and being Gly-Gly, Gly-Phe-Gly, Gly-Phe-Phe, Gly-Leu-Gly, Gly-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Ala, Gly-Leu-Phe, Gly-Leu-Ala, Ala-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu, Gly-Leu-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Tyr-Ala, Gly-Phe-Gly-Phe, Ala-Gly-Val-Phe, Gly-Phe-Phe-Gly, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, or Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, and being subject to intracellular lysosomal hydrolysis,

(c) 0.1 to 94.8 mol % of units derived from N-methacrylamide, N-methacrylic acid or an N-methacryloylated aminoacid or peptide, to which are bound a determinant capable of interacting with specific receptors on cell surfaces, the aminoacid or peptide being Leu, Phe, Gly-Gly, Gly-Leu-Gly, Gly-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Ala, Gly-Leu-Phe, Gly-Leu-Ala, Ala-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu, Gly-Leu-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Tyr-Ala, Gly-Phe-Gly-Phe, Ala-Gly-Val-Phe, Gly-Phe-Phe-Gly, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, or Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe,

(d) optionally, 0 to 5 mol % of units derived from an N-methacryloylated peptide, the peptide groups being bound to a linking group which is similarly attached to a similar peptide group attached to another polymer chain, the peptide being,

Gly-Leu-Gly, Gly-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Ala, Gly-Leu-Phe, Gly-Leu-Ala, Ala-Val-Ala, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Phe-Leu, Gly-Leu-Leu-Gly, Gly-Phe-Tyr-Ala, Gly-Phe-Gly-Phe, Ala-Gly-Val-Phe, Gly-Phe-Phe-Gly, Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe, or Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly-Phe.
and

(e) optionally, as a bioassay label, 0 to 2 mol % of units derived from N-methacryloylated tyrosinamide.

2. A polymeric drug according to claim 1, in which the determinant is a monosaccharide, disaccharide or oligosaccharide bound by an amide linkage, an antibody or a protein.

3. A polymeric drug according to claim 2, in which the saccharide determinant is galactose, galactosamine, glucosamine, mannosamine or fucosylamine.

4. A polymeric drug according to claim 1, in which the determinant is IgG or anti- θ antibody.

5. A polymeric drug according to any of claims 1 to 4, in which the bioactive moiety is an anti-cancer agent, an antimicrobial agent, an antiparasitic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a cardio-vascular drug, or a drug acting on the nervous system.

6. A polymeric drug according to any of claims 1 to 5, in which the bioactive moiety is daunomycin, puromycin, adriamycin, melphalan isopropyl ester (sarcolysine), bleomycin, desferioxamine, bestatin or tritylcysteine.

7. A polymeric drug according to any of claims 1 to 6, in which the linking group of (d) is of the type $-(\text{aminoacid})-\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2)_x \text{NH}-(\text{aminoacid})-$, where x is an integer of from 1 to 12, and which is attached to adjacent peptide groups by amide linkages.

8. A polymeric drug according to claim 7, in which x is 6 and the aminoacid is Phe, Tyr, Ala, Gly, or Leu, or x is 2 and the aminoacid is Ala.

9. A polymeric drug according to any of claims 1 to 8, in which the bioactive moiety is daunomycin, the determinant is galactose, galactosamine or fucosylamine, and, when the compound is cross-linked, the cross-linking spacer is Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly, and the linking group is $-(\text{Phe})\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{NH}(\text{Phe})-$.

10. A process for the synthesis of a polymeric drug according to any of claims 1 to 9, which comprises copolymerising HPMA with either an N-methacryloylated aminoacid or peptide or the p-nitrophenyl ester thereof, and reacting the resultant copolymer with a reactive bioactive molecule, a reactive determinant, and, optionally, a diamino cross-linking agent.

11. A process for the synthesis of a polymeric drug according to any of claims 1 to 9, which comprises copolymerising HPMA, an N-methacryloylated determinant or N-methacryloylated aminoacid or peptidyl determinant, and either an N-methacryloylated peptide or the p-nitrophenyl ester thereof, and reacting the resultant copolymer with a reactive bioactive molecule and, optionally, a diamino cross-linking agent.

12. A process according to claim 10 or 11, in which N-methacryloylated tyrosinamide is also included in the copolymerisation step as a bioassay label.

13. A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises at least one polymeric drug according to any of claims 1 to 9 and an inert, physiologically acceptable carrier.

14. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, in which the carrier is a sterile aqueous medium and the composition is formulated for injection.

EFFECT OF HPMA-daunomycin COPOLYMERS ON ACTIVITY OF
L1210 MOUSE LEUKAEMIA IN VITRO

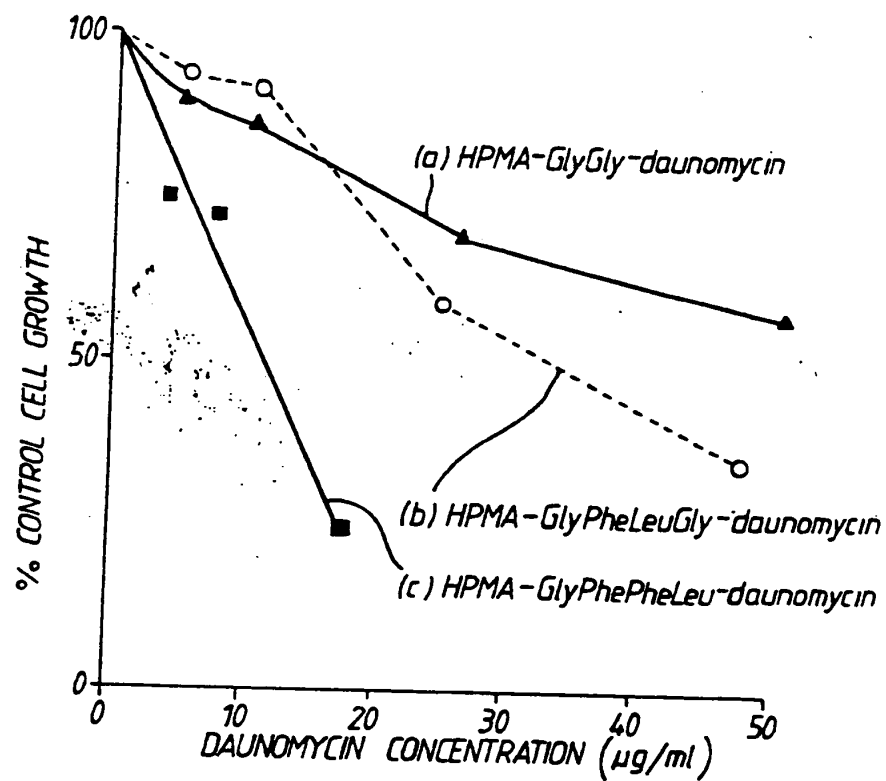


FIG. 1.

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EFFECT OF HPMA-sarcosine COPOLYMERS ON ACTIVITY OF
L1210 MOUSE LEUKAEMIA IN VITRO

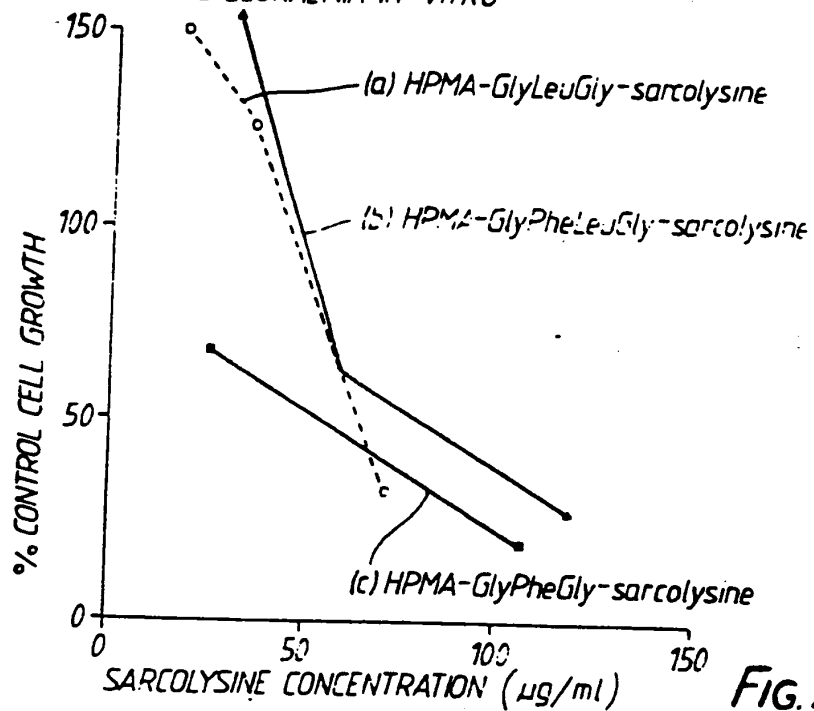


FIG. 2.

RATE OF IN VITRO DRUG RELEASE IN PRESENCE OF CATHEPSIN L

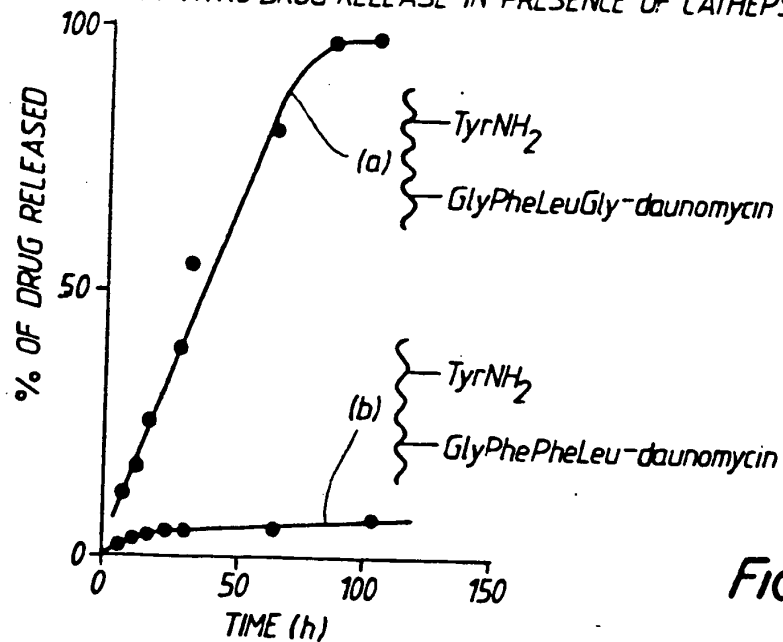


FIG. 3.

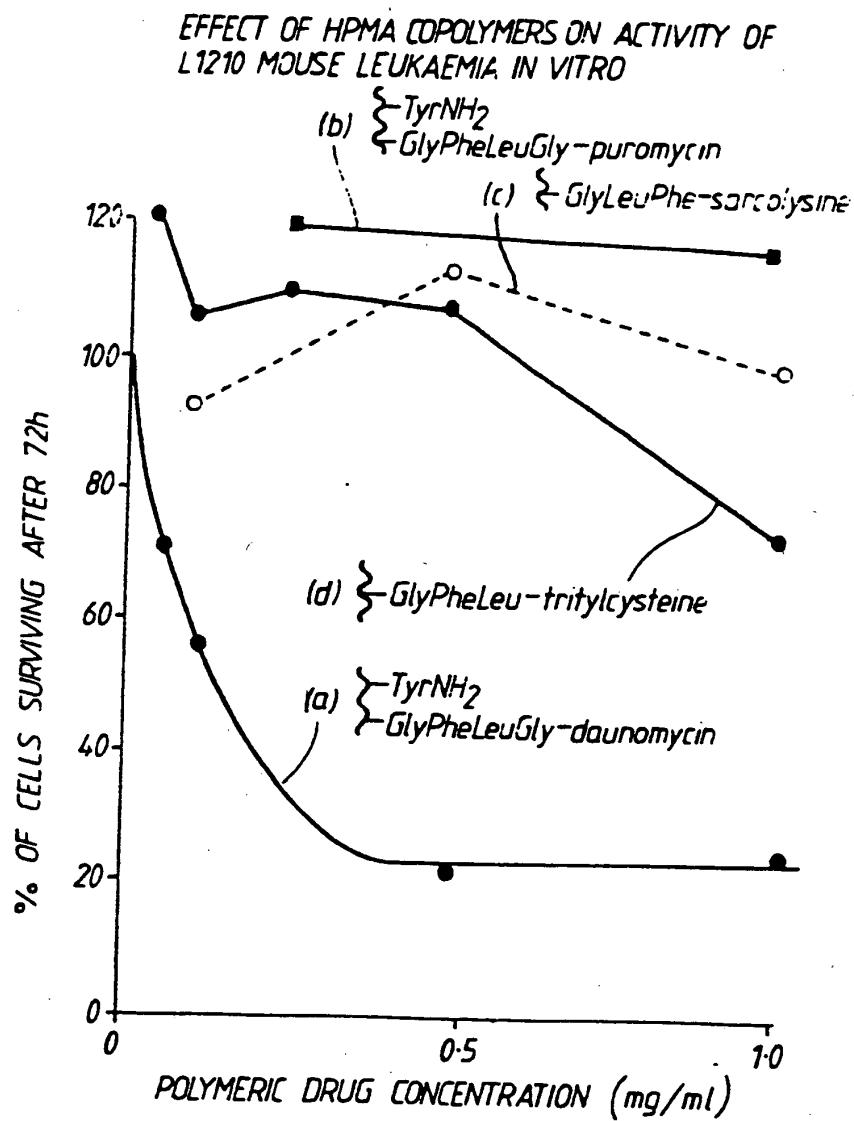


FIG. 4.

EFFECT OF HPMA COPOLYMERS ON ACTIVITY OF L1210 MOUSE LEUKAEMIA IN VITRO

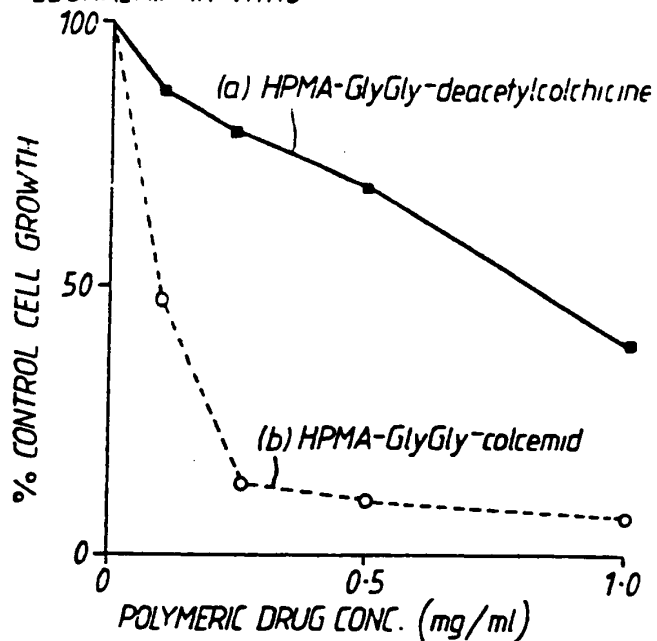


FIG. 5.

RATE OF IN VITRO DRUG RELEASE IN PRESENCE OF (1) CATHEPSIN L AND (2) LYSOSOMAL MIXTURE OF ENZYMES

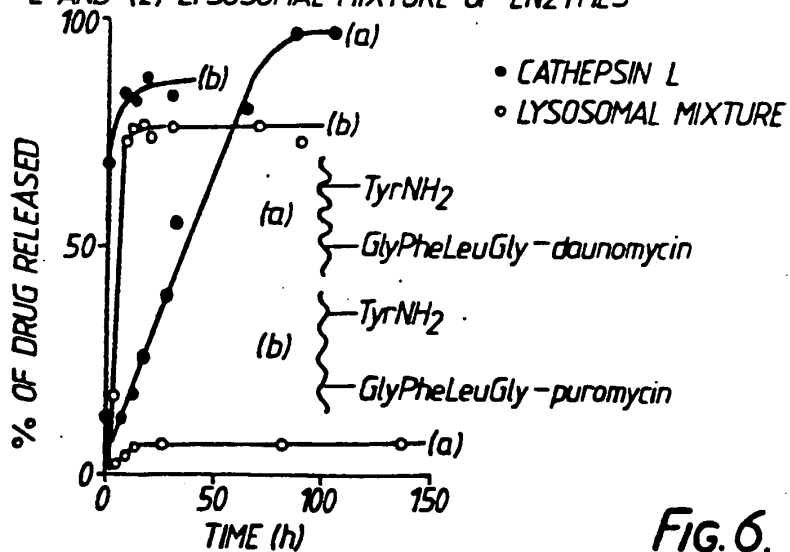
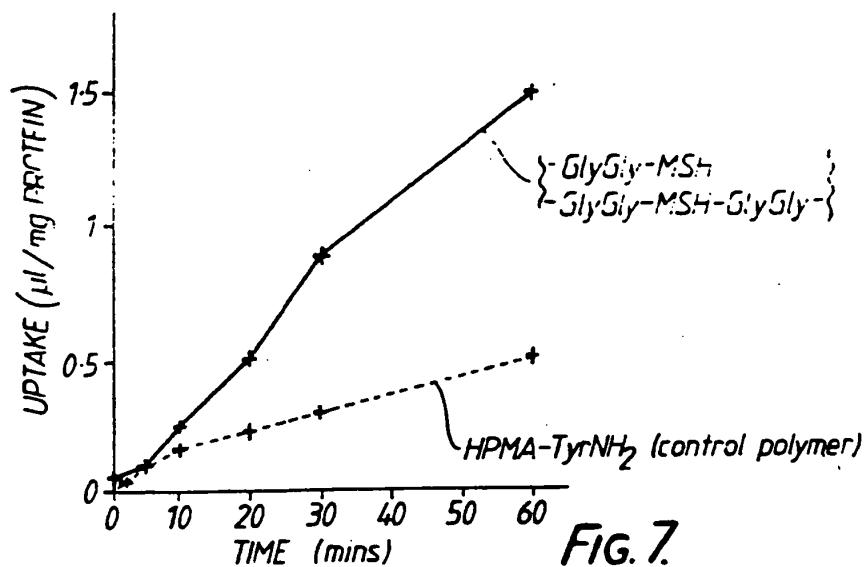
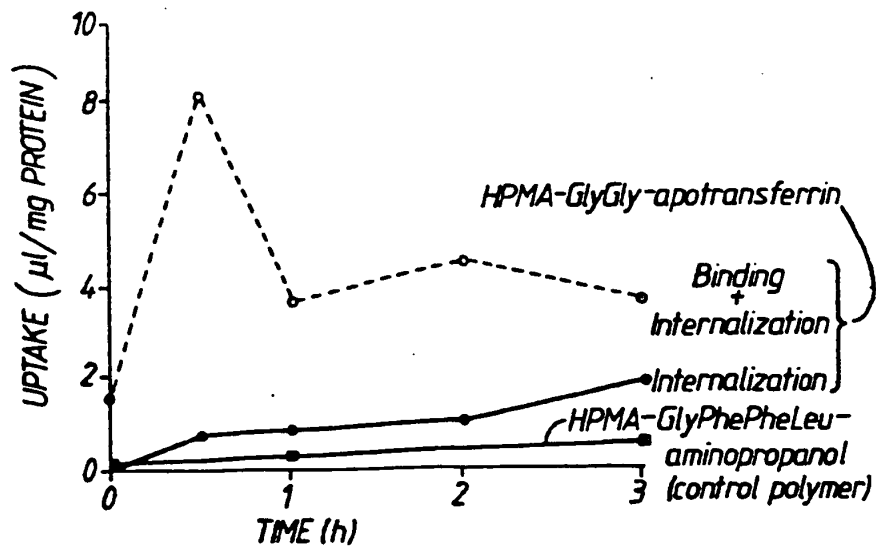


FIG. 6.

RATE OF IN VITRO UPTAKE OF HPMA-MSH COPOLYMER BY CLONE M3 MELANOMA CELLS



RATE OF IN VITRO UPTAKE OF HPMA-apotransferrin COPOLYMER BY HUMAN FIBROBLASTS



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IN VITRO UPTAKE OF HPMA-galactose COPOLYMER BY HUMAN HEPATOMA CELLS AS FUNCTION OF mol / GALACTOSE IN COPOLYMER

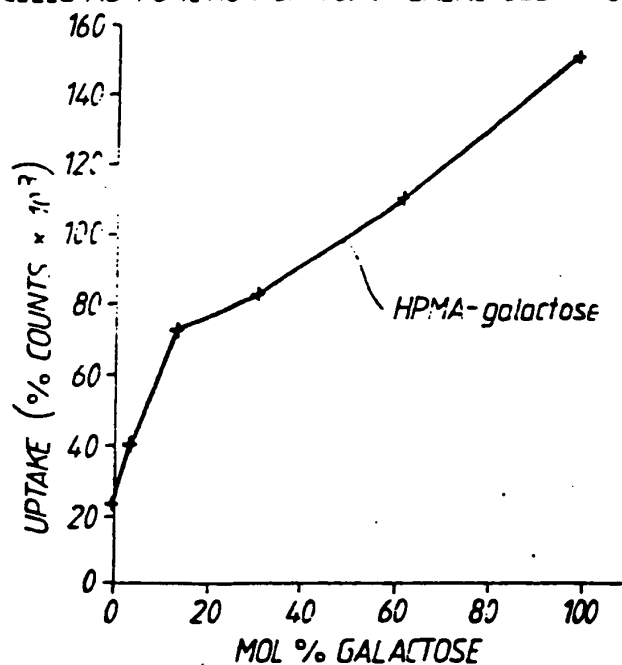


FIG. 9.

EFFECT OF HPMA-daunomycin COPOLYMERS ON ACTIVITY OF L1210 MOUSE LEUKAEMIA IN VITRO

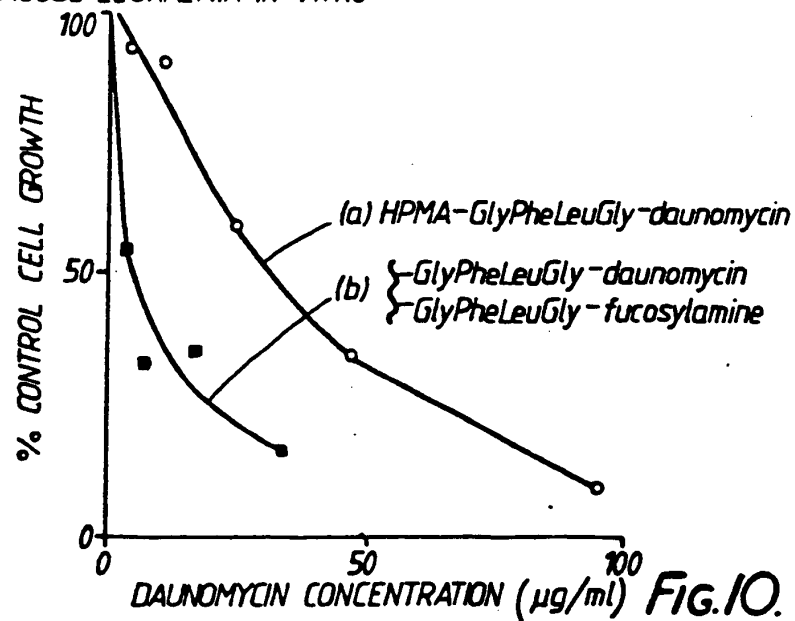


FIG. 10.